

Don't trek to beautiful Daocheng or Lugu Lake unless you relish a challenge.

Page 16



Rapturous applause wrapped up the Beijing International Jazz Festival.

Page 12



Photographer Qian Xiaohong, 30, talks about her tricks of the trade.

Page 9



# BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2001

NO. 29

CN11-0120

HTTP://WWW.YNET.COM

## Committee Ready to Activate Olympic Plan

By Shan Jinliang

The Organizing Committee for the 2008 Beijing Olympics will be set up in December, revealed Mayor Liu Qi last week.

Liu told Lamine Diack, visiting president of the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) the fund-raising work begins for real when the 2008 Olympics Organizing Committee and its personnel have been fixed.

And he told former Australian Sports Minister Warwick Smith that capital raising will follow the approach of the Sydney Olympics, partnering government and business.

Investment projects would be open to bids from domestic and overseas companies and Liu welcomes technological and economic support for the 2008 Olympics. The Committee's Action Plan for science, culture and venue construction will be completed by the year's end, he said.

## Capital Builds Better Bureaucracy

By Yang Xiao

New Beijing is burning record lengths of red tape, officials of the Beijing Foreign Economic Relations & Trade Working Committee all agreed at a symposium on Monday.

Forty departments have simplified procedures this year, according to a committee report:

- Beijing Municipal Planning Commission has cut 30% of its procedures.
- Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce (BAIC) permits work to begin before final approval.
- BAIC pledges to issue a license within 5 days to Chinese overseas students who return to the country to start up companies.

"We are trying to attract more foreign investments," said Chen Gang, vice director of the committee at the Beijing Municipal Investment Situation Introduction Symposium.

"We have cut nine unnecessary approval procedures including 1,984 terms and regulations since last year."

Six districts pooled experiences in running the one-stop investment service shops, which opened last year.

A Xuanwu District representative said powerful officials must be appointed to oversee every major investment project. If an investor encountered bureaucratic obstacles, they then knew whom to call to get results. Miyun District requires all such officials to take on at least 10 projects each.

## Cadres Attend WTO Course

By Zhao Hongyi

More than 30 lucky Beijing officials received a four-day training course on the World Trade Organization (WTO) from November 16-19.

The Communist Party Committee of Beijing and the municipal government arranged the training course for officials. Scholars and central governmental officials involved in entry negotiations delivered lectures on WTO structure, functions and membership.

They discussed WTO influence on China's industrial, financial and monetary policy reform and clearance of inappropriate domestic laws, regulations and government policy reform of local governmental frameworks, functions and administrative practices, China's market openness, and reduction of customs tariffs.



Rescue workers attempt to prevent poisonous gas leaking from a shaft at Daquanwan Mine in Datong City on Monday

Photos by An Xiaohu

# Five Days of Deaths

## Four accidents, 58 die in Shanxi mines



Jiang Deru (above), CPC branch secretary of Wangjiazhu Village, and Ren Anjun (below), director of the same village, are led to their cells by local police. Both have been blamed for the explosion in Datong



By Shan Jinliang

Fifty-eight miners died from November 14 to 18 in a series of unrelated gas explosions in small mines slated for closure by the government in Shanxi Province.

No information was available at presstime about 14 miners trapped in a mine shaft in Daquanwan Mine in Datong, where a serious explosion collapsed the entrance shaft on Tuesday.

"About two dozen explosions have been heard since 6:40 am on Tuesday," Hu Douping, deputy director of the municipal bureau of the coal industry told the Xinhua News Agency on Wednesday.

"The rescue workers cannot access the shafts. There is little hope of these men surviving. Personally speaking, I think the temperature in that shaft is over 50 degrees Centigrade and the poisonous gas content is quite high. Plenty of water but no food will reduce their chances of survival to almost zero."

Datong has organized nine rescue teams, but none has been successful.

**Small Mine, heap Coal**

The four coal mines had been ordered to close down, but local managers and officials ignored the national order to instead earn profits, reported the Xinhua News agency. Nationwide, 905 out of 1,284 small mines have closed since they were all told to close in June by the State Council this year.

Since the beginning of this year, sales of coal have been their best for three years. With a booming market, small coal companies profited. State-owned mines cannot compete with their low costs

that derive from poor facilities, limited safety equipment, low salaries and hard working hours for rural miners.

The unit price of coal from small mines is 50% less than state-owned key coal mines, and about 30% lower than local state mines. Officials said small coal mine owners are mostly poorly educated, and 24% have received only primary school education.

Others are even unable to read safety production notices or introductions. A small mine manager in Guizhou Province broke his own safety equipment out of ignorance recently.

**Officials, managers join hands**

After the Podi Mine explosion, some survivors and nearby villagers said the mine had been working since the beginning of the year, while county officials did not admit this.

A source told Xinhua News Agency local officials in charge of coal production hold shares in small mines, which makes it difficult to close them down.

An official from Hunan Province said local officials and teachers could not be paid their salaries if the province's 1,400 coal mines were closed down.

**Danger? What anger?**

A Xinhua News reporter in Shanxi found other small coal mines scheduled for closure were still running despite recent events. He noticed piles of coal at the Shengjiazhuang Coal Mine under the West Shanxi Coal Group.

Yangquan City of Shanxi Province, where 11 died recently in the Qingyu mining accident, was a busy scene. A 2-kilometer-long line of trucks loaded with coal waited to go to Qingyatu Coal Checking Station. Insiders say 80% of the coal in the trucks come from small mines.

### EXPLOSION TIMETABLE

**A series of unconnected explosions have rocked Shanxi Province, a coal production base in west China:**

■ **11:40 am, November 14, 11 miners die in a gas explosion in Qingyu Mine of Yuxian County, Yangquan City**

■ **9:30 pm, November 15, 33 miners die in a gas explosion at Podi Mine, Jiaocheng County**

■ **10 am, November 17, 14 coal miners are trapped after an explosion in Daquanwan Mine, Datong City**

■ **5:30 am, November 18, 14 miners die in gas explosion at Xiangyu Mine, Jincheng City**

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

北京青年报  
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Under the auspices of the Information Office of Beijing Municipal Government ■ Run by Beijing Youth Daily ■ President: Chen Xing ■ Editor in Chief: Zhang Yanping ■ Executive Deputy Editor in Chief: He Pingping ■ Director of the Editorial Department: Liu Feng ■ Price: 1 yuan per issue ■ 13 yuan for 3 months ■ Address: No.23, Building A, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China ■ Zip Code: 100026 ■ Telephone/Fax: (010) 6590-2525 ■ E-mail: bjtoday@ynet.com ■ Hotline for subscription with Red Cap Company: (010) 6641-6666 ■ Overseas Code Number: D1545 ■ Overseas Distribution Agent: China International Book Trading Corporation



# Business Commissions Abolished as Enterprises Face Market

By Shan Jinliang

The commercial commissions of Beijing's Shijingshan, Xicheng, Chongwen and Fengtai districts have been abolished in recent local governmental reforms. Xuanwu District Business Committee was abolished in the 1996 reforms. Experts say these moves arise from the increasingly market-oriented focus of Beijing's

economy.

The previous functions of the commissions will be incorporated into the economic and trade committees of local district governments, which are mainly in charge of policy guiding, supervision, inspection, and service.

The commercial committee, established during the pre-1980 planned economy period, orga-

nized goods, coordinated meetings for ordering goods and even tried to pay salaries for staff of loss-making companies. Furthermore, the companies' production was linked to state economic quotas. Implementation of state instructions to the companies was not well carried out however.

Li Xiaoqiang, deputy head of

Shijingshan District, said the major task for the government is to manage the business field at large rather than the detailed daily work of the enterprises. She noted less government intervention had brought about the rise of regional business interests.

Most enterprises have calmly accepted the abolishment of these committees, as they believe rely-

ing on the government to run business is an out-of-date concept.

Analysts say it is a positive step for the government to adjust itself to market development with most state-owned capital being withdrawn from enterprises. Others voice concerns over whether the market system is mature enough for enterprises to function efficiently.

## Economic Development Area Cuts Admin Fees

By Li Dan

From December 1, 2001, Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area will become the first of its kind in the capital to abolish extra administration fees. The abolished fees cover altogether 98 items, such as construction fees and service charges on housing transactions.

In order to attract more enterprises to set up business in the area, all administrative items failing to conform to international practice will be scrapped. Although this will reduce the average annual income of the area by 11.7 million yuan, more importantly it will improve the overall investment environment and increase tax income. The area also provides standard management in fee collection of various items to increase efficiency.

Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area benefits from the double preferential policies for both state-level economic and technological development areas and state-level high-tech science parks. By the end of October 2001, 950 enterprises had set up business here with a total investment of \$3.5 billion.

## Road Maintenance Fee to Be Collected

By Shan Jinliang

Beijing's road maintenance fee for next year will be collected from December 1, said Beijing Road Bureau recently. The transfer from multiple fees to unified tax has been suspended due to the unstable price of gasoline in recent years.

Now that the road fee centers of the capital's eight districts have been linked, vehicle owners with no outstanding fees can pay future charges in any of the above centers. Those with outstanding fees must still settle the amount at the road fee center they first registered with.

The road maintenance fee will remain the same as in previous years and can be paid in monthly, quarterly, half-year or one-year installments. To cope with longer lines for paying road tax after the rise in vehicle owners, the bureau has set up a new fee collecting center near Jianxiang Bridge in the north of the city, which will open for business at the end of the year.

The fee collecting centers in four outskirt districts (ten in total) will be linked following the connection of the 8 centers in the city districts.

## China Lowers Tax for 'Green' Cars

Three car manufacturers will enjoy up to 30% exemption on consumer tax, officials at the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) revealed last Friday.

Officials said that cars whose exhaust emissions meet the Europe II standard of low pollution are qualified for the tax exemption.

This is the first financial incentive in China for enterprises and products that have met with the environmental protection standards in advance.

The favorable policy will cover qualifying cars made by Shanghai GM Company Ltd., Shanghai Volkswagen Corp. and Aeolus-Citroen Automobile Co., Ltd. based in central China's Hubei Province.

Another domestic auto giant, FAW-Volkswagen Automotive Company Ltd., is also applying for the special treatment. If approved, the four leading domestic manufacturers will win tax cuts totaling 1.5 billion yuan (\$181 million) this year, according to experts' initial estimates.

The policy has gained popularity among manufacturers since its debut, urging them to make their vehicles conform to even higher standards of environmental protection.

(Xinhua)

# Government Cuts Stock Trading Duty

By Xiao Rong

The stamp duty on China's stock trading was cut to 0.2% on November 16 by the Ministry of Finance, reaching its lowest level in the nation's 10 years of stock market development.

The new stamp duty, imposed on both buyers and sellers of A-shares (traded in RMB) and B-shares (traded in US dollars and other foreign currencies), was 50% lower than the current trading levy, which was 0.4% for A-shares and 0.3% for B-shares.

The day after the news was released, there was initially a marked rise in the turnover of the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock markets, which was later followed by a drop.

"The slash of the stamp duty has been a long-awaited trim in China's sluggish stock market this year, so it will certainly stimulate stock trading to a certain extent. Moreover, it shows the determination of the government to support the stability and development of the stock market," said Xu Lingfeng, a researcher at the Guotai Junan Securities Research Institute.

"This is a rational choice with China's entry to the World Trade Organization, which will

improve the competitiveness of China's stock market by lowering trading costs," said Cui Jianbo from Hairong Information Company.

Cui said that the stamp duty of China's stock trading ranks second in the world, "The present trading cost in our country is 1.5%, including 0.35% on commission rate, much higher than that of other countries."

"The high trading costs of China's stock market have greatly restricted the form of capital, thus leading to the slump of the stock market this year," said Chang Jin from Qinhai Securities.

Sluggish turnover in the stock market this year has consequently eroded proceeds from stamp duties, a major contribution to China's revenue growth in 2000, which shrank by 37% in the first three quarters of this year to 24.4 billion yuan, according to statistics from the State Administration of Taxation.

"It means the government is giving up part of its revenues to investors, of which stamp duties have always been a vital part. But this sacrifice is worthwhile," said Zhou Ling, a manager at Haitong Securities.



Ji Xianlin examines the Yongle Bell sutras

Photo by Xi Yuming

# Yongle Bell Sanskrit Sutras Deciphered

By Zhao Pu

Sanskrit sutras on the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) Yongle Bell were for the first time deciphered on Monday in the Big Bell Temple. Distinguished scholar Ji Xianlin, accompanied by 8 professors on Sanskrit studies from Beijing University, delivered a lecture on the Sanskrit Sutras of the bell on a visit to the temple.

Ji, a famed orientalist in China, is one of the few scholars in the world who can read Sanskrit. Professor Zhang Baosheng, one of Ji's earliest students in the study of Sanskrit, presided over the lecture and decoded the Sanskrit sutras on the bell on the spot.

There are more than one hundred Han and Sanskrit sutras and incantations cast on the Yongle Bell, totaling more than 230,000 characters. According to Zhang, the Sanskrit sutras on the bell belong to Lantsha Sanskrit in letterform, and are Buddhist tenets in the phoneticized ancient Indian language. The Lantsha Sanskrit originated in the 11th century in south India, and spread to China in the 13th century from Nepal. It prevailed in Tibetan Buddhism and was highly esteemed as a divine language.

"The decoding research on the Yongle Bell Sanskrit sutras is of great significance in the study not only of the Sanskrit language, but of religious policy in Chinese history," remarked Zhang, "since the bell was cast under the order of Emperor Yongle in 1420 with the aim of enhancing the solidarity of religious groups."

## Yongle Bell

*The Yongle Bell was cast during the reign of Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty in the early 15th century. When the emperor moved the capital to Beijing, he initiated three great projects: the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Yongle Bell. The bell was regarded as a "guardian" when he moved the capital to Beijing. It was also a symbol of the greatest reverence of imperial power. The bell is about 46 tons in weight, 6.75 meters in height, 3.3 meters in rim diameter and 0.22 meter in the thickness of the inclined plane of the rim. Astonishingly the bell was cast entirely with Buddhist sutras and incantations in Han and Sanskrit languages.*



Photo by Chen Shuyi

# CSRC Asks Public How to Reduce State Share

By Li Dan

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) is collecting suggestions from the public concerning measures to reduce state shares by 10% on the country's stock market.

The issue of reducing state shares by 10% is particularly troublesome due to historical problems. The state shares play a dominant role in the Chinese stock market and the total state shares are not currently in circulation in the market at all. The state shares that are not in circulation do no good to the accumulation of social security funds. Thus the government implemented the proposal of reducing state shares by 10% to activate the stock market and to amass social security funds. However, it developed in such a way that the country can now make more profits at an extremely low price before Initial

Public Offering. Comparatively it has harmed small shareholders' interests.

The CSRC declared to temporarily halt the proposal of reducing state shares by 10% on October 23, which sparked fierce debate in trading circles. Many experts say the implementation of the proposal is a must, but the problem lies in how to reduce the state shares in an appropriate fashion. Securities Law expert Wang Lianzhou said China should carry out the plan under legal protection and supervision, while guaranteeing the transparency of market operation.

CSRC also said any useful suggestions are welcome to be sent to the following address: the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) Planning Committee, 16 Financial Street, Xicheng District, Beijing.

By Xiao Rong

Beijing No.2 Intermediate People's Court has received an application from the Supreme Economic Court of the Republic of Belarus last week, asking for the implementation of one of its written judgments.

This is the first time for a local court in Beijing to accept and hear a case that was judged by a foreign court.

The case involved an economic dispute between Minsk Transfer Machine Producing Company and China Machine Tool General Company. According to the No.2 — 4/99 verdict of the Belarus Supreme Eco-

nomic Court in 1999, a compensation of \$210,000 should be paid by China Machine Tool General Company due to failure to carry out contracts, and including court costs of \$756.92.

A collegiate bench was established by Beijing No.2 Intermediate People's Court to hear the case. "If there were no violation of Chinese laws or no infringement on the interests of our country, we would judge the case on the basis of the original verdict and urge the implementation of the compensation fee," said Yang Xiaoyong, director of the Economic Court of Beijing No.2 Intermediate People's Court.

Yang added that only those countries that had entered into international pacts, bilateral treaties, or reciprocal conditions with China could apply for the implementation of verdicts within China's boundary.

"The application from Belarus was due to a bilateral treaty of Judicial Cooperation between China and Belarus, which was signed in 1993," Yang said.

"The case has shown a confidence from foreign countries in China's judicial environment. With China's entry to the World Trade Organization, similar judicial cooperation will increase," Yang stressed.

# Belarus Court Appeals to Chinese Counterpart



## Tsingtao Continues Buying

By Xu Ying

China's biggest beer producer, Tsingtao Brewery, bought 90% stakes in two breweries and smaller stakes in others, as part of its strategy of expanding operations nationwide. Tsingtao said that after losing its aggressive CEO Peng Zuoyi 4 months ago, it is still adhering to the disputed expansion policy.

Tsingtao paid \$7.1 million for a 90% stake in Fuli-yun (Tianmen) Brewery and 90% of Fuli-yun (Suizhou) Brewery from Well Unison Investments, a Hong Kong-incorporated food and beverage distributor, the company said last Wednesday.

In a separate announcement, Tsingtao said its board had approved the purchase of 30% of Guangxi Nanning Wantai Brewery, renaming it Tsingtao Brewery (Nanning). The purchase price wasn't disclosed.

The beer giant also increased its stake in Tsingtao Brewery (Zhuhai) to 76.67% from 60%, buying 10 million shares for \$1.2 million from Zhuhai Huangmei Enterprise Group, its partner in the beer plant.

Tsingtao is China's best-known brand name internationally, but it has only a 5% share of the Chinese mainland market, which is dominated by small, local breweries. It has been expanding through acquisitions inside China.

Although acquisitions can enlarge Tsingtao's market share, the risk and the debts cannot be ignored.



Photo by Zhuang Jian

## Huaneng to Raise up to \$336 Million

By Xu Ying

Huaneng Power International said last Tuesday it would raise up to 2.78 billion yuan (\$335.9 million) through a domestic A-share offering, mainly to help repay bank debt.

Up to 250 million shares were issued to the public last Thursday and would be listed on the Shanghai stock exchange later, Huaneng said in a prospectus published in the Shanghai Securities News. It did not give a listing date.

The remaining 100 million A-shares would be handed over to Huaneng's parent, Huaneng International Power Development, which owns 42.17% of the Hong Kong and New York listed unit. These shares would not be floated, the prospectus said.

The A-shares would be priced between 7.25 yuan and 7.95 yuan each, representing 15.4 to 16.9 times Huaneng's fully diluted earnings per share in 2000, it said. Huaneng did not give an earnings forecasts for 2001.

The A-share proceeds would be used mainly to repay loans the firm had taken from banks to finance daily operations and its merger with the Shandong Huaneng power company last year.

Huaneng has developed and operates the largest thermal power plants on the Chinese mainland. It is the largest independent power producer in China and has a generation capacity of 10,813.5 MW.

# Small Fry Car-makers Liberated

*Government included small-scale auto manufacturers on its official list*

By Zhao Yijiang

Chinese small-scale car makers Geely, Eagle and Yueda have secured approval to launch new models from the State Economic and Trade Commission (SETC). This has given great impetus to the auto market and relevant entrepreneurs.

### Right to Join the Game

The government announced an official list of approved auto companies and products this May, but Geely, Eagle and Yueda were not included. These small-scale, private car manufacturers faced uncertainty over their future. "If we don't have the

right to join the game, how could it be possible for us to win?" Geely's chairman Li Shufu complained.

According to a five-year development plan for the auto industry announced recently by the SETC, the government will give priority support to China FAW Group, Dong Feng Motor and Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp. which are the only three capable of producing more than

200,000 vehicles each year. It plans to transform them into world-class conglomerates to face competition from foreign counterparts.

But some analysts hold a different view. "It's unfair to small auto makers. The emergence of giants should be a result of fierce market competition, rather than the will of administrative departments," commented a researcher at the Development Research Center of the State Council.

### 2006: Fatal Strike Or Fair Market?

China will cut its tariffs on auto imports from the current

level of 70-80% to 25% and will raise the quota barrier by 2006 in line with WTO requirements.

More and more consumers are taking a wait-and-see attitude for new models at low prices.

According to statistics from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, car sales in October this year decreased by 22.1% to 52,000 units compared with sales in September. Over the next few years, the government faces the task of carefully treading the line between non-interference and regulated competition.



Geely (L), Yueda and Eagle (R)

Photos by Kong Wenqing / Wu Yu

## My8848 Deals Blow to E-commerce

By Shan Jinliang

My8848.com finally issued a notice dealing with employee salaries and consumer complaints on November 15. In September, senior management disappeared, leaving suppliers unpaid, and angry consumers without the products they had paid for.

### B2C banner encountered investigation

As one of the domestic shopping websites, My8848.com, published commodity information and attracted a great number of consumers with its tens of thousands of commodities from daily products to household appliances.

In the middle of October, the Consumer Complaints Center under Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce (BAIC) received dozens of complaints about the company not delivering products that had been

ordered and paid for. An investigation carried out by the bureau found the company had deserted its offices in September, although its website did not publish a notice informing consumers of the company's folding. Analysts believe senior management has absconded with the website's funds.

BAIC issued a warning notice urging consumers to choose only well established e-commerce websites with decent reputations and established after sales services on November 9. The warning also stressed the importance of seeing a picture of the product and an explanation of the mailing process before ordering.

### "We don't mean to hurt consumers"

In the November 15 notice, My8848 said, "We will deal with the affair carefully to ensure not to hurt the interests of the con-

sumer." But the notice did not mention detailed dates and approaches to solve the affair, which are the core issues concerning consumers.

Apart from complaints from consumers, the business departments have also received complaints from the suppliers, who claimed that My8848 had not paid them more than 6 million yuan. Unable to find its CFO, Haidian District Court sealed up the company. Even if the company were declared bankrupt, consumers and suppliers would get no compensation as the only remaining assets are the abandoned office furniture and computers, experts told Beijing Radio Station on Tuesday.

### Fatal attack on B2C

Millions of debts are not the cause of any potential bankruptcy. "My8848 has many means of raising finance, and what's more, as a leader in China's e-commerce, it is not likely to go bankrupt so easily as its has a large number of consumers," commented Yang Bin, CEO of Nalysis Consulting Corp.

"The act by My8848 is disastrous for China's e-commerce market and the B2C model in particular," said Yang. As a new consuming fashion, B2C business has not become commonplace, though it has won recognition from many consumers. The folding of My8848 will cause consumers to lose confidence in Internet shopping and will make an unpredictably negative impact on the depressed B2C market, Yang added.



Only paper remains to greet visitors

Photo by Shan Jinliang

## PT Yu-gang Tioxide to Resume Trading

By Xu Ying

PT (particular transfer) Chongqing Yu-gang Tioxide (SZSE: 000515) has been approved by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) and Shenzhen Stock Exchange (SZSE) to resume trading on the stock market as of Tuesday.

PT Yu-gang Tioxide had been mired in the red for three consecutive years from 1996 to 1998. As a result, SZSE suspended it from trading from July 5, 1999. The company has now recovered within the period of grace granted by regulatory authorities after undergoing share right transfer, asset restructuring and debt reshuffle.

In 2000, it reported a net profit of 3.509 million yuan from its core business. In the first half of this year, it chalked up 6.03 million yuan in profit.

Chinese regulators have posted delisting alerts to some unprofitable companies, such as ST (special treatment) and PT. The PT label is reserved for chronic loss-makers with three straight years of losses. PT shares are only allowed to be traded for four hours every Friday.

It is the first PT company to be granted listing without first being placed under the ST category since the stock exchange revised its listing rules.

## Visual Card OEM Seeks to Avoid Price War

By Yang Xiao

Visual card OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) Taiyana's president Lu Ming has begun promoting his company's value-added brand to avoid an ongoing price war.

He invited Chinese football star Li Weifeng to attend Taiyana's press conference last Saturday as an image ambassador to promote the company's project. "We hope our visual cards will enter the world like the national team," said Lu Ming. Li Weifeng has already become a national hero after his team entered the 2002 World Cup finals.

Lu Ming has been in the IT field for almost 10 years. He came alone to Shenzhen in the early '90s. After 18 months he opened a company and several years later began to produce visual cards. Now the card has made it to the top 5 best selling cards in Zhongguancun and the whole Chinese market. Lu has become a Hi-Tech millionaire.

In the world of the visual card, Germany and Taiwan have better quality. There are few manufacturers on the Chinese mainland producing cards. A large majority of manufacturers prefer importing, changing the cover and adding their own brands. This method can save Research and Development expenditure and manufacturing costs. The products are cheaper than Taiyana's, although the quality is much lower.

One analyst points out that Chinese manufacturers lack core technology. All the manufacturers buy foreign chips for their cards. Canada's famous chip producer ATi makes Taiyan-

fa's chips. This is the main reason why the visual cards engage in price wars - the technologies are easily copied by everyone. In China price wars defeated all TV and VCD manufacturers. Their core technology belongs to foreign companies, and all the manufacturers are employees of these companies.

"There is insufficient capital and time available, as well as a lack in human resources. So it is impossible to research chip technology. Under the circumstance I prefer to improve our quality and do more promotion activities like this time, rather than cutting the price," said Lu Ming.



Li Weifeng (L) and Lu Ming at the press conference

## Will the Paranoid Survive?

By Zhao Yijiang

Andy Grove's famous saying, "Only the Paranoid Survives", has been proved right by many successful businessmen including Li Shufu, chairman of the first privately owned venture Geely Group.

### From motorbike kingdom to car empire

Geely Group, known as "the kingdom of the motorbike" achieved great success in the two-wheel vehicle market. Its management scale is listed among the top five among township enterprises, and among the top four in partnerships.

Encouraged by his achievement, Li started to build a car empire from 1997. "There is no difference between producing a car and producing a motorbike," Li said, full of confidence.

### Risk everything on a single throw

But manufacturing a car is not so simple, especially in China. Li had to keep everything secret at the beginning, because no company could enter into the car industry without government permission.

Li has invested 1 billion yuan in a car production line that is planned to produce 100,000 units per year so far. "We make every decision with some risks. The only problem is whether the risk is big or small. We're taking a huge risk this time," Li said.

### A Catfish in a group of sardines

Usually, Chinese consumers have to pay more than 100,000 yuan for

a car at the lower end of the market. Geely reduced the price of its car in a similar range to a record low of 38,900 yuan on the eve of the nation's WTO entry. The relatively low price and no compromise on

safety and reliability enabled Geely to win a bigger market share.

The Group exhibited the first sports car solely designed in China, which attracted a great deal of attention. However, Geely has no license to produce such a sports car at present, and mass production of the car has been postponed.

### All cars are created equal

In China the government not only controls the right to produce cars, but also which model to produce. Li stood up as the first entrepreneur to challenge such rigid control. "We want a more fair and the free atmosphere in which to compete. We feel the current situation is very unequal. The biggest challenge for China's car industry is inequality," said Li.

After receiving the permission, he might feel a little bit relaxed. It is the market instead of the government to decide whether the paranoid Li will survive.



# Foreign Insurance to Enter Beijing Market within 2 Years

By Li Dan

Beijing insurance market will be open to foreign-invested companies within two years, following China's promise to adhere to World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, said Liu Jingsheng last Friday, chief director of Beijing Insurance Supervision Office. This is the first time the government reveals the opening schedule to the public.

Since the related agreements of China's entry into WTO will be finally put into operation on December 11, the opening date of Beijing's insurance market begins its countdown. This official announcement undoubtedly toughens the competitive

mettle of domestic insurance companies, although experts used to predict that the Beijing market would be protected, not opening to foreign companies for at least three to five years.

## Large Amount of Foreign Insurance Companies Coming

19 foreign insurance companies are currently operating in China. Meanwhile, other foreign companies are preparing to come. Usually, foreign insurance companies deliberate carefully before choosing the first city for their location, especially foreign life insurance companies because they have to open business in partnership according to the official business require-

ments and it takes a long time for them to find appropriate partners.

Many foreign life insurance companies have been authorized to establish business in China, including TransAmerica, NewYorkLife, MetLife, CNP Assurances, Scandinavia. During their long period of preparation, the Beijing insurance market will open, thus creating the distinct possibility that the capital will become their first choice of location.

## Life Insurance to Become Focus

Experts believe that future intense competition between foreign and domestic insurance companies will be highly focused on the field of life insurance, since

other insurance services are usually connected to specialized areas.

A recent search by Beijing Insurance Supervision Office shows that among 5,000 interviewed Beijing citizens, 22.2% have confidence in foreign companies and 26.3% trust foreign companies' more standard services. The figure is high because most of these people haven't themselves experienced foreign insurance services.

On the other hand, Liu Jingsheng pointed out that domestic companies still possess advantages such as their grand scale, developed relationships, and familiarity to local culture and consumption psychology.

## 14 Multinationals Ready For IPOs in China

By Zhao Hongyi

Kodak, Unilever, Michelin, Telefongen and Everbright Milk, are among the 14 foreign invested enterprises lining up for the long discussed initial public listing (IPO) on China's stock market. Most of them will probably initially list on the Shanghai Stock Exchanges, one of the two Chinese stock markets, according to sources of the Foreign Investment Commission of Shanghai.

As required by China's laws and regulations, overseas multinationals and investors have to form partnerships with local ventures and meet a number of business criteria before they are allowed to be listed locally.

Other criteria include obtaining profits for three consecutive years before listing, and engaging in business consistent with the industrial development guidelines promulgated by the central government.

China's Securities Regulation Commission (CSRC) is still considering when to grant the permission. Nevertheless, CSRC has expressed its willingness to issue permission to the first group around the end of this year, or early next year.

Unilever is the pioneer and has been

preparing for more than one year in this regard. It advocates that its group's shares have been listed in the stock markets in London, New York and Amsterdam, and it has issued public shares on the markets in India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil.

Kodak has been preparing for a even longer time. In 1994, Kodak started its acquisition in China and finally acquired Fuda, Gongyuan and Almey, three small players in China's film development market. The total amount of purchasing reached \$380 million. Today, Kodak has two joint ventures in China.

Michelin, the French tire manufacturing company, is the most intent on issuing its IPO in China. For this purpose, Michelin established a joint venture of \$200 million with Shanghai Tire & Rubber (Group) Co. Ltd. to produce tires for sedan cars and other components like steel wire and mixed glues for car industrial uses.

As advocated by these multinationals, their strong desire for local IPO issuing are based on the business concept of localization and internal incentives. They plan to award their employees with local shares as bonuses to push them to perform better, a popular practice in the west.

## CITS Cooperates with New Partners

By Jiang Zhong

Cooperation between CITS (China International Travel Service), one of the largest travel agencies in China, and two renowned companies, AXA Assistance and American Express, became breaking news for many newspapers last week. A travel assistance company and a business service company, the fruits of the cooperation will fill the gaps in Chinese travel service and business travel markets respectively.

The joint venture between CITS and AXA Assistance, Ltd, AXA Assistance-CITS, Ltd, will be approved by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation by the end of this year, according to Chen Chunzhi, chief representative of AXA Assistance Singapore PTE, Ltd Beijing Office.

The joint venture will supply medical and non-medical assistance services to international travelers.

CITS will also sign a contract with American Express to set up a business travel service company by the end of this month, according to Xi Yujin, Chief Representative of American Express International Beijing Representative Office.

The cooperation with American Express will offer services at reduced costs both to transna-



Nodal Kerbec, CEO of AXA Assistance and Li Lu'an, president of CITS signing the contract for cooperation

Photo provided by AXA Assistance

tional companies who have business in China and to large Chinese enterprises.

Chinese travel agencies are facing two major headaches after China's WTO entry. First, large international travel service giants will undoubtedly attract Chinese travel talent. Second, they will take a large slice of the Chinese travel market by establishing holding companies and joint ventures with domestic travel agencies, or by cooperating with domestic airways, hotels, restaurants and shops.

## Students Eye Top MBAs

By Zhao Hongyi

At the Global MBA Touring Exhibition held in Beijing, November 17, Chinese students and visitors found they had to use English to communicate with representatives from the tens of business schools around the world. No Chinese allowed!

"It is quite challenging and stimulating to talk with foreign teachers directly," said a teenage Chinese student.

"You cannot say you will learn English in our school. You have to be quite advanced in English before coming, because you are studying MBA, not English, right?" joked an exhibitor from France at his booth desk.

Meanwhile, Chinese students are becoming more and more critical in selecting the schools for their further study.

A representative of a business school in Norway told Beijing Today that, compared with his experience last year, Chinese students are more sophisticated.

"They no longer ask you everything. Instead, they prefer world famous universities, and always asked me 'why do you think that I

should go and study in your school?' 'What are the advantages of your school?' They are progressing."

The Global MBA Touring Exhibition arranged two stops in China. Prior to Beijing, its first time in the capital, the exhibition was held in Shanghai. Though the number of exhibitors decreased by half, they still received a high demand in Beijing.



Students are increasing their expectation  
Photo by Qu Liyan

## Cinda Joins Hands with Goldman Sachs

By Zhao Hongyi

China's Cinda Asset Management Corp (AMC) set up a number of joint ventures with world leading investment bank Goldman Sachs Group, financial conglomerate Deutsche Bank AG and another financial firm from the United States respectively, to help resolve bad assets in its possession. The agreements were signed on November 8 in Beijing.

The new companies, expected to have a total stake of about \$300 million, will first specialize in resolving Cinda's non-performing assets, with the three foreign partners getting a return on recovered assets, said Zhu Dengshan, chief executive of the China Cinda Asset Management Corp.

Cinda will have to hire appraisal firms to determine the value of its assets to be transferred to the new company before its foreign partners set their investment, a spokesman of Cinda told Beijing Today.

The new deal, if successful, is likely to bring a new wave of follow-up cooperation between domestic and foreign AMCs, as foreign giants are also anxious to tap the potential market, analysts said.

## Overseas Financial Institutions Acquire Stakes in Local Banks

By Zhao Hongyi

The International Financial Corporation (IFC), an affiliate of the World Bank, declared this week that it would inject \$270 million into the Nanjing City Commercial Bank, a small share holding commercial bank in the capital of Jiangsu province in southeast China. IFC will hold a 15 % stake of shares in the bank.

In the early 1990s, approved by China's central government, tens of small-sized city commercial banks were established, aiming at providing loans to private business which was experiencing dramatic growth at that time.

Nanjing is the second city in which IFC invested. Earlier in 1999, IFC obtained 5% of the shares in the Commercial Bank of Shanghai.

In addition, the Asian Development Bank also gained a 3% shares in China's Everbright Bank, a nationwide commercial bank, in 1999.

According to the spokesman of IFC, IFC hopes the Nanjing City Commercial Bank could be publicly listed on China's stock market in the near future.

IFC is also in a negotiation with China's Minsheng Bank, another nation wide commercial bank, for a possible stake of share holding.

## New Agri-Tech For Sale in China

By Zhao Hongyi

Scientists and diplomat from India and France joined hands in introducing their bio-organic fertilization (FBO) technology to China on November 22 in Beijing.

The new bio-technology uses earthworm and organic fertilizer to increase soil fertility for agricultural cultivation. It can be used for plantation of tea, coffee and rubber through soil fertility recovery, re-cultivation of wasteland, forestation, bio-diversification and environmental protection.

Developed by the Sambalpur University and the Parry Agro Industries Ltd. in India, together with the Institute of Research for Development, a French governmental agency for assistance to agricultural development overseas, the technology has reached a high level of sophistication and serves a worldwide market.

"We are determined to participate in China's agricultural modernization," said Ms. Marle-Helene Le Henaff, counselor for agricultural affairs in the French Embassy in Beijing.

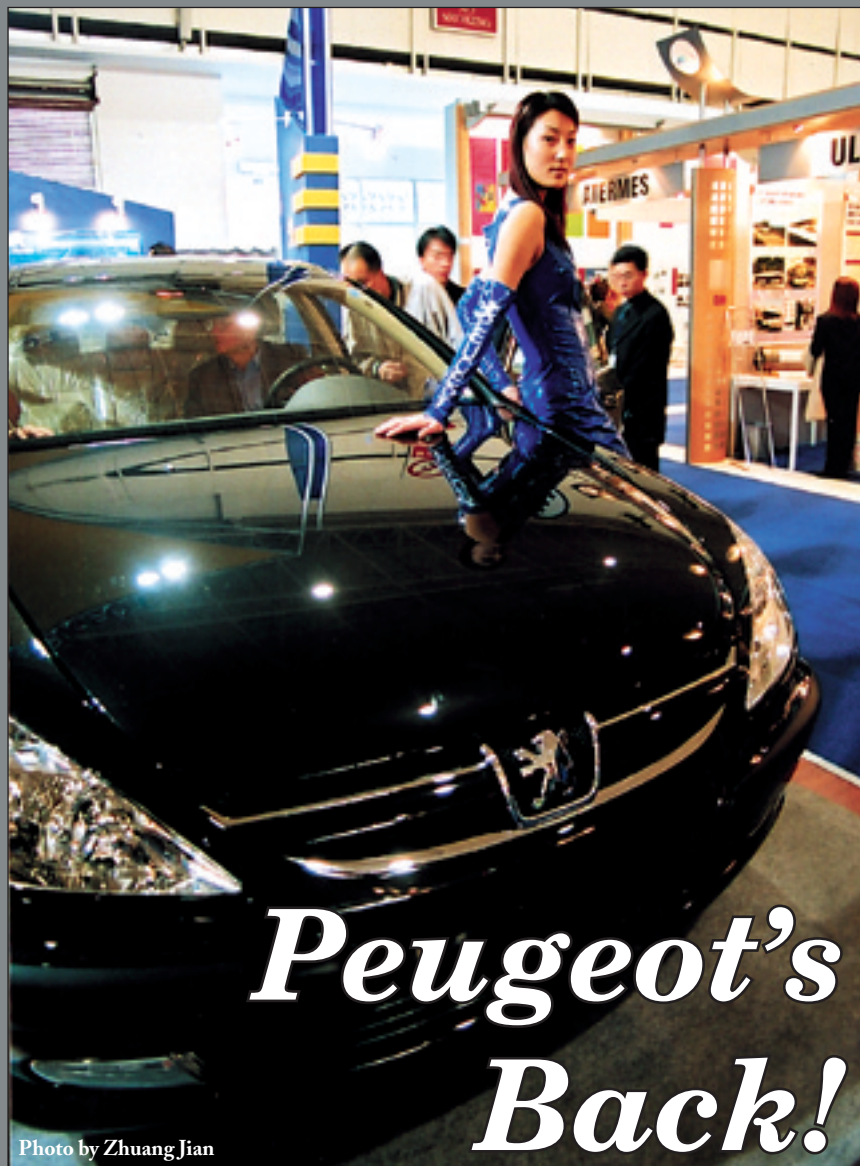


Photo by Zhuang Jian

## Peugeot's Back!

By Zhao Hongyi

### PSA Peugeot Citroën's Commitment in China

French car manufacturer PSA Peugeot Citroën and its Chinese partner Dong Feng Motor Corp announced last week in Beijing that they would invest 1 billion yuan (\$120 million) in a new phase of co-operation.

Under the agreement, PSA Peugeot Citroën will contribute 630 million yuan (\$76.2 million) to the projected investment, while Dong Feng Motor Corp, one of China's top three automakers, will make up the remaining 370 million yuan.

According to Jean Martin Folz, chief executive officer of the French group, the cooperation will include increased production of their car joint venture in Wuhan -- the Dongfeng Citroën -- and the setting up of two marketing joint ventures in charge of selling Citroën and Peugeot-brand vehicles.

The French group will introduce four new models, aside from the currently available Fukang and Picasso, by 2004 and make full use of the joint venture's annual production capacity of 150,000 units.

New models to be introduced include the sophisticated Peugeot 307 and Citroën C3.

### Peugeot, No Stranger to Chinese Consumers

The French auto giant Peugeot is well acquainted with China. It once established a joint venture in Guangzhou in the early 1980s and introduced its Peugeot 504 and Peugeot 505 to China but withdrew silently due to its unsuccessful cooperation with Chinese partners in the early 1990s, leaving the position to Japan's Honda, which is currently producing its top selling Honda Accord in China.

But Peugeot has actually never left China. With Citroën's cooperation with Dong Feng Motor Corp, Peugeot, in a group alliance with Citroën, has always been keeping an eye on China's car man-

ufacturing industry and market.

"You can say Peugeot has been in China for the past decade, or that Peugeot has just come back," said Mr. Gui Dongqing, representative assistant of Automobiles Citroën in Beijing.

"Peugeot acquired Citroën in 1976 and we are of the same group of PSA Peugeot Citroën, though we produce and sell different brands."

"When Peugeot withdrew from China, it had dim thoughts on the car market here," said Mr. Gui. "But the dramatic growth of China's car market in the last decade impressed Peugeot, and China's entry to the World Trade Organization also encouraged us. Peugeot realized it's time to come back."

"Fortunately, Peugeot has Citroën as its alliance. That is why Citroën's further cooperation with Dongfeng will be held together with Peugeot under the name of PSA Peugeot Citroën."

### "We Want to Do More Here"

Dongfeng Citroën, launched in 1992 and beginning production in 1996, has manufactured and sold 230,000 Citroën ZX Fukang sedan cars in China. The joint venture has a sale-service network of 480 outlets throughout the country. Last year, it generated an annual profit of 699 million yuan (\$81.21 million).

In addition to the new types to be launched, Dongfeng Citroën, will manufacture two new types of car engines, 1.6 liter and 2 liter, in its engine factory and gearbox factory in Xiangfan, close to Wuhan.

"We will redesign our new models to be brought into the joint venture according to Chinese consumers' demands," Mr. Folz said.

"Dongfeng Citroën will use part of the new investment to set up a technical center in the near future to primarily develop vehicles for Chinese families," said Mr. Miao Wei, president of Dong Feng Motor Corp.

"Family car sales will enjoy their biggest growth potential in China," Miao said.



## National Treasures to Be Exhibited in Taipei

By Sun Ming

Ancient Chinese cultural relics collected by the Poly Art Museum will be displayed in Taipei from December 22 to March 21 next year.

According to the museum, these national treasures, insured at 58 million U.S. dollars, will be transported to Taipei by air in two batches, in order to minimize the risk of loss.

However, in order to ensure the security of the transportation, the museum declined to disclose the exact date.

"It will be one of the most important exhibitions in recent years," says Jiang Yingchun, an official of the museum.

According to Jiang, the ex-

hibits will include 35 stone Buddhas and Bodhisattvas from the fifth to the eighth century, 80 pieces or sets of bronze ware from the Shang Dynasty (1600 - 1100 BC) to the Tang Dynasty (618 - 997 AD) and five sets of Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911 AD) artifacts.

Among the most eye-catching of the 120 relics are bronze heads of an ox, monkey and tiger, removed by British and French soldiers when they looted Yuanmingyuan (the old Summer Palace), 140 years ago.

The bronzes were returned to Beijing in spring this year, after the China Poly Group successfully bid for them at an auction in Hong Kong.

## Souvenir Design Competition

By Zhao Pu

A competition has been launched to design souvenirs for museums in Beijing. At a press conference held to announce the competition, director of the Beijing Bureau of Cultural Relics (BBCR), Mei Ninghua said, "There are a total of 118 museums in Beijing at present, with three to five new ones opening each year. But very few of them provide recommendable souvenirs. This is a shame for our ancient capital."

According to Mei, souvenir sales account for only 18% of tourism revenue in Beijing, compared with a world average of 30%. The design competition, jointly sponsored by the BBCR and Beijing Bureau of Tourism,

is aimed at improving this situation.

The essence of the competition is innovation, and entrants should bear in mind the particularities of Beijing's museums. The designs should embrace the themes of commemoration, practicability and collectability, and should be based on the characteristics, history, architecture and showpieces of the museums.

Entries will be accepted from December 1, 2001 to March 5, 2002 and can be submitted via mail or email. The competition is open to all, and prizes will be awarded for the best entries.

Enquiries: 6525 7677 / 6404 2770 / 6525 3670

Email: bwgc@bjwww.gov.cn

Website: www.bjwww.gov.cn

## Animal Adoptions



Three-year-old Zhang Yuqi calls on the African elephant he adopted with his father Photo by Wang Jia

By Su Wei

At a special adoption ceremony held at Beijing Zoo last Sunday, eight of the zoo's animals gained proud new "guardians".

There are now nearly twenty animals at the zoo that have been adopted by Beijingers.

The latest group of animal guardians include students, company employees, journalists, even kids at kindergarten, (with a little help from Mum and Dad).

The animals they have adopted range from a bactrian camel to a hornbill, a giraffe to a snow leopard among others.

Since the Beijing Zoo established its Animal Adoption Office in March, it has received wide support. Locals have shown unprecedented enthusiasm since the story of a handicapped child, Shang Chenxi adopting a snub-nosed monkey, a gorilla, and a baby lion with his family was reported.

Among the latest group of animal guardians, the adults said they hope to create a better living condition for the animals, regardless of whether they are rare or not, for there is only one earth for all the creatures.

Three-year-old Zhang Yuqi was a little more succinct when talking about the African elephant he adopted, saying simply, "I like it. I hope it can grow bigger!"

According to Zheng Wangzhi of the Animal Adoption Office, anyone can register as a potential guardian. The regulations are available for perusal online, at www.BJZoo.com.cn.

Adopters are entitled to name the animal, if no one else has done so yet, can visit free of charge, and are given regular updates about its condition and state of health.

## Embezzler Stands Trial

By Sun Ming

After four years in hiding, 38-year-old Yang Ning, a former section chief of the finance department of Air China, stood in court on November 20.

He was indicted for embezzling more than 25,000,000 yuan from 1993 to 1995.

According to the public prosecutor, from October to December 1993 Yang withdrew a total of 14,000,000 yuan from his company's account in order to loan it to a former colleague.

However to Yang's dismay, the colleague, who had paid him a substantial bribe, subsequently refused to repay the loan.

By the end of that year, Yang had embezzled a further 21,000,000 yuan, paid by a

foreign air company as a brokerage fee, to cover the missing amount.

After making up the deficit, Yang then transferred a further 6,910,000 yuan to his own account and in the following years, he took another 4,900,000 yuan from the company.

"Even though I was only a section chief, I had control over large amounts of money," Yang told the court.

After realizing his crime had been detected, Yang fled to Chongqing in July 1996, where he hid for more than four years.

However missing his daughter, he flew back to Beijing before the spring festival this year, and was arrested in January. The trial is still underway.

# Dragonfly Kites



Photos by Baizi



By Su Wei

"Look! Two dragonflies flying in autumn!" People in Tian'anmen Square crowd around to see if it is true. In fact, the "dragon flies" are actually miniature kites, made by 36-year-old Meng Yuan.

Meng has been a kite enthusiast for six years, but it is only since this June that he began designing his "insect" models, the smallest of which is just 6 square cm.

"I first became interested in the idea of making kites one spring day in 1995, in Tian'anmen Square. I was fascinated by an old man flying a hawk kite." The old man allowed Meng to study the structure of the kite, and he decided to make one by himself, drawing on his experience of learning traditional Chinese realistic painting.

At first he just design some large kites, but found the beautifully and carefully designed ones could not be seen very clearly in sky. "Kites are also a kind of art. Since all art comes from life, it should reflect real life," says Meng.

He then considered making some changes to his kites. "People can only fly big kites in a wide area in spring and autumn, why not design kites to be flown in summer and winter?"

"One day, I read that in Weifang, (a city in Shandong Province with a long history of kite making), some kites are 2.5 square cm, but I'm not sure whether such small kites can actually be flown or not." His interest was aroused and he decided to challenge the ones in Weifang. However he found it was impossible to get the extremely small kites airborne. "If they cannot fly in sky, there is no point in making them. So I decided to make insect kites, the same as the real ones."

The design of the small kites is different from the big ones. Meng says the most difficult part lies in sticking the bamboo to the silk. "I must attach the bamboo with great care and accuracy; if it's even slightly out of place, the kite will not fly."

When he first finished the first dragonfly kite, Meng says he could not fly it, because the string was too heavy. After much searching, he finally found a kind of thread used for spinning that was light enough to be used with the insect kites. "When I was told that the string is very in common in Shandong, I asked an acquaintance to post me a quantity."

Meng says he has three goals. "I want to break the world record for the smallest kite capable of flying. I am working to make 2008 different insect kites by 2008, to celebrate the opening of the Olympic Games.

And I am also preparing to make a large kite with the head of dragon and the body of centipede, from which will hang pictures of the 108 emperors in China's history, which is also to be finished by 2008."

## Meteors fill the heavens

By Chen Ying

Last Sunday night, more than 700 people boarded buses provided by the Beijing Astronomy Museum and traveled to Huairou County to watch the spectacular Leonid meteor shower.

The show started right on schedule at 1:30am, with more than 10 thousand meteors appearing in the sky in just one hour.

It may have been the last opportunity for a long time to witness such an intense meteor storm, say experts from the Beijing Planetarium, as the comet that causes it appears only once every 33 years.



Photo by Fan Jiwen

## Football? Rugby!



Photo by Qiu Binbin

By Ivy Zhang

Otago University rugby team from New Zealand played a rugby match in Beijing on Sunday against China Agriculture University. It was the team's first visit to China.

New Zealand won the game 38:24. Afterwards, Zheng Hongjun, coach of the China Agriculture University team said, "We hope more top foreign rugby teams will come to Beijing to compete with us. In this way, the overall level of rugby in China can improve rapidly."

## Sex Education Exhibition A Hit

By Sun Ming

An exhibition on sex education for adolescents in Zhongshan Park has attracted some five thousand people since it opened last week.

The exhibition, organized by the China Family Planning Information Education & Communication Center, aims to help young people understand the physiological and psychological changes that occur during puberty, according to Sun Guomei, the director of the center.

"I didn't expect that so many Beijingers would be concerned about the sexual education of their children," says Sun. According to her, many parents have attended the exhibition, and even some grandparents.

This is the third time in Beijing that has held an exhibition on sex education. Sun says compared with the previous two exhibitions, held in 1989 and 1995, there is a more extensive selection of materials and pictures, and some sensitive topics are addressed, which were previously considered taboo in terms of teenage sex education.

The exhibition for the first time introduces adolescents to contraception and to preventive measures against AIDS and venereal diseases.

Besides pictures and videos, there are also experts on hand to provide consultation on specific issues.

"Most of the commentaries used are written by recent college graduates, which makes the exhibition more accessible for young people," says Yuan Tiexiang, deputy director of the center.

It is estimated that 1,000,000 middle and primary school students will visit the exhibition, which will run for two months, according to Dong Bolin, an official with the Beijing Education Committee.



This is the third sex education exhibition for Beijing students Photo by Jia Ting



# What Killed Kai Qing?

*Student, 14, hangs himself over argument with teacher*

By Chen Ying

When a 14-year-old boy hangs himself in his home on a cold October morning over a dispute with his teacher, it seems safe to say something has gone badly wrong at school.

In his October 31 note, Kai Qing said he wanted to prove his innocence beyond all doubt to his teacher. At the No.34 High School, in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, Qing had been caught dripping ink onto a teacher's clothing. The teacher accused him of having done the same thing four times before.

Qing insisted he had only done it once. The teacher grew angry and used inappropriate language. The day before his suicide, a classmate said Qing was made to go to the teacher's office and confess his mistakes. When Qing came back to class, he said if she ever tried to force him to confess to a crime he had not committed again, he would make sure he wasn't around to do it.

The Chinese class teacher had more than 10 years' experience and had been awarded a city excellence award. But her husband had just lost his job and a school official said lately she had problems controlling her temper.

The tragedy wrenched open the frigid fabric of a Chinese education system built on rigid expectations of behavior from both student and teacher. In the immediate rush to apportion blame, the response of society revealed at least as much about

the judges as the judged. Opinions follow:

**Zhu Chunling, Chinese class teacher, No.2 High School attached to Beijing Normal University**

I think such cases rarely occur in Beijing. It's something to do with the teacher's quality. That person shouldn't be a teacher, especially a Chinese class teacher.

In China, Chinese class teachers teach students virtues such as truth, goodness and beauty, as well as how to write essays.

Although there are some excuses regarding the teacher's personal issues, the teacher's action should not be forgiven. Everybody encounters difficulties in his or her life. But that doesn't mean someone has the privilege to express his or her discontent to others, especially if one is a teacher. As adults, we should control our tempers and deal with our personal problems without troubling others.

Teachers often participate in seminars about how to deal with students' psychological problems in Beijing. But I think it's still not enough without the support of society and parents. On this issue, the poor little boy must have exhibited some kind of odd behavior before his suicide. It's a pity his parents weren't aware of what had happened with their child. Otherwise this tragedy might have been avoided.

Society should pay more attention to child psychology. For instance, newspapers can em-

ploy entertaining concepts to attract teenagers to read guidance articles. Teachers and parents should discuss and provide more information to their children. Communication is very important for children's education.

**Jiang Yi, Chinese class teacher, Beijing No.3 High School**

The key to this case is the little boy. Today children are too sensitive to accept blame from teachers and parents. That may be because there is only one child in most Chinese families. Children are so spoiled by their parents and relatives that they can't stand any censure, even the slightest in some cases.

As a teacher, I care more about basic education news. I think the media overdoes such negative reporting about teachers' education methods. This trend gives most children a hint that they can threaten teachers and parents through means such as leaving home and threatening suicide.

For teachers, they should master how to make students to be responsible persons. They should be patient with their students and make children know respect is mutual and what you have done will influence others' attitude toward you.

**Zhang Yan, a mother**

The most important difference between the education systems of China and America can be summarized in two words:

"we" and "I". Stressing the individual may be the most important characteristic of American education. If the student said he or she didn't do it, then the teacher would believe what the student had said.

Chinese teachers by contrast mostly emphasize team spirit. In other words, people should obey discipline. Students should abide by what the teacher has said. Children must say "sorry" if they make mistakes. It seems people should do something according to their leader's orders regardless of whether you are children or adults in China. People can't be themselves in most circumstances. That's why Chinese children appear to lack imagination compared to western children.

**Nicholas Tomlison traveler, UK**

All teachers should receive training. In the western education system, it is highly regulated with laws and rules about how teachers may treat students. Psychologists are available, although not permanently.

Nobody could say similar stories never occurred in western countries. There are all kinds of cases where children have committed suicide in western countries too. It's a problem all countries have to tackle. What I don't know is whether the problem is worse or better in China.

**Martin Kerr, student, UK**

Suicide is a tragic and se-

vere act, the motives for which are at once deeply personal and frighteningly universal. Though ultimate responsibility must lie with the individual, in the case of such a young person, family and teachers are clearly accountable for much of the child's psychological and spiritual development.

On a wider scale too, the community, nation and indeed humanity should accept that such events, however tragic, are a fruit of the society of which they are the representatives, participants, and developers. The very fact that we can be informed of these happenings allows us to dispel the erroneous notion that we are isolated from them. Whatever personal experiences had led him to take such an extreme course of action, we can clearly draw the conclusion that Kai Qing desperately wanted to escape his situation.

True education is the uncovering of these gems, a process requiring the tools of self-discipline, language, mathematics, logic, justice. Surely the teacher's responsibility is to train his pupils in the use of these tools, so that they may themselves discover new and priceless treasures.

What is required then is not an adjustment of the curriculum, nor further restrictions on the conduct of teachers in the classroom, but a fundamental transformation in our conception of what it means to be a teacher, to be a student, to be a human.

## SOUND BITES

*"We can have the first gathering in a foreign country, in Europe, but this gathering will be mostly symbolic, that's all."*

— Burhanuddin Rabbani, former president, and the Northern Alliance's nominal leader, on the meeting in Berlin on Monday to discuss a future government for Afghanistan with other Afghan factions

*"We have a new opportunity before us, an opportunity that both parties will seize. The United States will do its part"*

— Secretary of USA Colin Powell said Tuesday that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat have promised to cooperate in the new US peacemaking efforts

*"Everyone's world changed after September 11th, including the aviation security community."*

— USA Transportation Department spokesman Chet Lunner after the airline security bill signed by President Bush imposed deadlines for strengthening airline security

*"We are devastated by the loss of our two colleagues. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, and with the families of the two journalists who died with them."*

— Geert Linnebank, Reuters editor-in-chief on Journalists murdered in Afghanistan

By Chen Ying



**Tan Dun**

Born in rural Hunan in 1957, he enrolled at Beijing's prestigious Central Conservatory of Music in 1978.

In 1986, Tan went to New York for further studies at Columbia University.

He was the Oscar Music (Score) Winner 2000 for the melody of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon".



**Bian Zushan**

Born in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu in 1936, he is a national first-degree conductor and a member of the Chinese Musicians Association.

Photo by Fan Jiwen

## History of Disagreement

In 1994, Tan Dun let two conductors express the meaning of the musical notation mark for silence: "rest" through their actions and gestures in his work "Orchestra Theatre". Although some said it enhanced the rest's power, Bian dubbed it "emperor's new clothing".

In 1996, Tan spent 20 minutes using multi-media including paper and water to express his ideas in "Ghost Opera", a 45-minute work. Bian felt the 20-minute effects show had no relationship to the music. He said the multi-media undermined the composer's creation and intended purpose.

The same year, in a seminar of Chinese Musicians Association, Bian commented on Tan's work. Tan said he would speak to Bian privately.

The chance to chat didn't come until November 6, 2001. But it was at a Beijing TV show instead of a private place. This time Bian commented on Tan Dun's latest "Water Music". He said Tan didn't create music, but a "play". He also said Tan's Oscar melody was just a simple tune.

# Composer Faces Music

Musician walks out after surprise TV guest diatribe



Tan Dun performs his latest work "Water Music"

Photos by Lu Beifeng

By Chen Ying

It began smoothly enough. Witty, erudite and self-confident, Tan Dun appeared at ease.

The program "Common Ground" of Beijing TV invited China's most successful composer to attend as an honored guest on November 6.

Then host Yao Changsheng invited another honored guest, Bian Zushan, to come on stage in the middle of the program.

The two said hello. Then Bian ripped into Tan's work. Tan sat still as Bian criticized his compositions.

"I have waited for you to stop for 10 minutes," said Tan. "I didn't know you would come here tonight. And I think there is a total difference between your music and mine. I am not willing and I will never answer or defend."

"I have read more than 10 papers where you have commented on my works. I never answered once, and I am still not willing to say a word today. Because it's impossible to communicate if the music is not at the same level. I respect your ideas and I quit now." Then Tan walked off stage, a first for Chinese TV history.

The host invited Tan to return. Silence. The program was in its 57th minute. But no one else left. Five minutes later, the program continued with the host and Bian. Bian and audience then exchanged views about Tan Dun's music for the rest of this program.

Beijing TV broadcast the show—unedited—on November 10 morning. It was a sensation. Chinese audiences, accustomed to harmonious talk shows, were stunned.

CCTV's "Shihua Shishuo" (Tell the truth as its origin) represents the golden standard of such Chinese shows.

Host Cui Yongyuan leads discussion among audience and guests and often makes the room rock

with laughter despite the constant absence of meaningful disagreement. While some condemn the sensationalism of "Common Ground", other viewers agreed it would be tedious if all shows followed the same proven style. Opinions follow:

**Luciana Zhai, student, Central Conservatory of Music**

Every program should have its own character. Some should have an easy style, while others should be more intriguing and intense. An audience can choose programs according to its own preferences.

It's reasonable for some producers to create themes to improve ratings. Today, competition is so fierce no matter what your occupation. You must come up with the best idea to capture attention.

Transmitted programs should keep their original style. For new programs, there should be more unexpected and distinguished ideas. It's unnecessary to worry about the market. After all, there are all kinds of audiences in China. For my part, I prefer the latter style.

**Liu Lanying, IT employee**

I really doubt the goal of this program's employees. Even though they wanted to keep the audience's appetite whetted and create an unexpected event, they should communicate with honored guests. At least they should warn these guests to be psychologically prepared for something unexpected. Their most important aim is to produce the program successfully after all.

But there's a difference between psychological preparation and show preparation. People prefer spontaneity on any issue. It's disgusting to watch so many artificial programs on the channels today.

By the way, I think most Chinese hosts lack the ability to han-

dle the live situation. They need to master handling debates and questions. Most of them can't.

**Employee, CCTV (requested anonymity)**

Similar programs should be broadcast without any editing in future, even live. Most spectators want to watch honored guests express themselves in their original form and their off-the-cuff display beats any artificial performance.

For example, I once worked on a talkshow where a veteran soldier recounted colorful battle experiences from Korea. The man might have been illiterate and he spoke many profanities during interview. But he expressed his true feelings and emotions about that battle and other topics.

The editors cut out some sections of his speech where he used profanities. The speech was then incoherent and the style was totally different from its original. Maybe there are some negative side-effects on teenagers if they hear a trooper use bad language on TV. But we lost a good opportunity to know the old man in the best way.

Nowadays, a program will broadcast for an hour on TV. But the program employees may spend two hours producing the show because editors need to cut key segments they think are improper or where the host or honored guests perform poorly.

Frankly, some hosts don't even worry about their display in the front of a camera because they think it's up to the editors to fix the program to make them look perfect.

Most Chinese hosts need to improve their interviewing ability. If the program were transmitted live, the host would be more careful about their behavior and their skill would improve. For instance, editors hardly need edit Cui Yongyuan's performance at all.



The total income of insurance premiums in Beijing has reached 10.9 billion yuan, with an increase rate of 71% over the past three quarters.

What is the significance of these figures? What is the attitude of Beijingers regarding insurance? What are the key factors influencing people's decisions on choosing insurance?

Recently the China Regulation Insurance Commission surveyed 5,000 locals in order to determine the general trend of the insurance market in Beijing.



People are practical towards purchasing insurance

59% say coverage and premium are the most important factors in choosing insurance, followed by 56% for after-sales service.

This suggests consumers are becoming more sophisticated in their approach to buying insurance. Their requirements are more specific, regarding how they will be treated before, during and after purchasing the policy, what the actual benefits will be, and what the price differences among different types of insurance signifies.

Difficulty in successfully making claims deters insurance purchase

Among the 32% surveyed who have never taken out insurance, 34% say, "It is easy to take out insurance, but hard to get compensation." 32% say they see no necessity for them to have insurance at present.

Currently it is complicated to handle indemnity claims due to a lack of cooperation between relevant organizations.

Take medical insurance for example. The patient or the relatives must show the receipt for hospital fees to the insurance company after the medical treatment and then wait for the company to examine and approve it.

However in developed countries, the fees are usually directly transferred to the insurance company by the hospital while the patient is under treatment.

Meanwhile, there is a strong perception that insurance companies will try to avoid paying compensation, although those with insurance policies often admit they lack sufficient understanding of their rights and obligations relating to the insurance.

Again taking medical insurance as an example; some people take it for granted that their policy covers any illness, regardless of their state of health prior to taking out the policy, which may well not be the case.

# Insurance

## Who's covering what, and why?

State-owned still the most popular choice

Given the same coverage and premiums, 30% say they will choose a state-owned insurance company, compared with 23% who consider the services provided are a more important consideration than whether the company is state or foreign owned.

State owned insurance companies are well established and have the advantage of being more familiar with the domestic consumption psychology and already have an established customer base.

Furthermore, people are more likely to consider state owned companies to be 'safe'. With government backing, they are less likely to go bankrupt, and even if they do, people may have less trouble in making a compensation claim.

More importantly, foreign-owned insurance companies are newcomers in China, and many regulations governing their operations are yet to be clearly specified. Such companies commonly only have offices in Beijing or other major cities, and their services are necessarily limited.

However as the sector further opens up, the business of foreign insurance companies will most likely boom, not only in credit and industrial insurance but also in individual life insurance. With a variety of insurance and superior service standards they will no doubt attract many of domestic consumers.

Health and livelihood seen as main areas for insurance

65% of those questioned say they are more likely to consider taking out health insurance, followed by 44% for an endowment policy and 31% for accident insurance. In contrast, only 25% say they would consider some form of investment insurance.

Most of those with insurance policies are young people and are well aware of the importance of good health to their career. Furthermore, many young people consider that a pension will be inadequate to fund their retirement and see an endowment possible as a way of supplementing this.

Investment insurance is a comparatively new concept and the available varieties are very limited, still some people say they would consider such insurance ahead of other types.

Such people are likely to have a higher than average disposable income, and are likely provided with medical and endowment insurance by their employer.

Fine print incomprehensible for many

Among those who have some form of insurance, about 50% say they have read the fine print, but fail to fully understand it. 7% say they gave up reading the details because they were too obscure. In contrast only about 28% say they are very clear about all the items.

Certainly the wording used in such documents is highly specific and many people have neither the time nor the patience to study each clause in detail.

Therefore, they are more likely to listen to the salespersons explanation, and are basically concerned with knowing how much they will get if something happens.

However, there is a danger here where a salesperson, simply chasing his or her commission, may emphasize the benefit and gloss over the specific condition under which it is payable.

Consequently, the policyholder encounters difficulties when they try to claim compensation.

Insurance intermediaries a new concept for most people

52% of those questioned say they have no idea about the function of insurance intermediaries, compared with 17% who say they know something about intermediaries, such as the agent, broker and appraiser.

Consequently 39% say they favor direct contact with insurance companies and 32% would prefer to talk regularly, face to face, with insurance company staff. In contrast very few say they would consider seeking help from an intermediary.

Many people are unaware of or may misunderstand the services provided by intermediary organizations. They tend to consider that those organizations only represent the interests of the insurance company, and even those who have some understanding of the role of an intermediary, take it for granted that they would only make recommendations based on maximizing their commission from the insurance company. In fact, the intermediary should act on behalf of the client, and is well placed to help them choose the most appropriate insurance.

However, it is also true that such organizations are new and the regulations governing them have not been systemized. So it is likely some intermediary organizations may concentrate simply on making profits at the expense of their client's best interests.

Meanwhile, the insurance industry in China is very young, and the variety of coverage available is still very limited compared with that in the developed countries.

(Su Wei)

北京青年报  
BEIJING TODAY  
今日北京

**房地产版(英文版)**  
**让我们和太阳一起升起**

《北京青年报·房地产版(英文版)》是《北京青年报》每周五推出的房地产及相关的广告专版,其英文版随报发行媒体优势不言而喻。根据房产客户的需求,让公司决策层直接阅读到相关内容,更具针对性,力事使客户的广告效力发挥至最大!

Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, which is pressed every Friday, is a new advertising special one for the real estate and relative industries. The English Edition is delivered with the newspaper so the media advantage is very obvious. Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, aiming at the advertiser's requests for the more pertinence, let the policy-makers read the relative content directly and try to reach the most advertisement effectiveness

**HOT TEL:13910419797 84014823**

**WARWICK INTERNATIONAL APARTMENTS**

**Were we do our job... So you can do yours.**

Special recommended villa at Lido are  
\$6000/29spm/3br/fully furnished  
**TEL:(010)67151166 ext.3005/3006**

You Couldn't

Address yourself Better in Beijing!

**Clients may also enjoy the following benefits:**

- #24-hour room service
- #Underground Parking
- #Business Centre
- #15% discount at best on food & beverage, shopping and recreational area

**Call use now to arrange for a site inspection to find out more.**

Mr. Ashley Wong, Property Manager at  
**Tel: 86-10165973388 ext: 1400**  
**Fax: 86-10165978182**

**中国人寿大厦**  
CHINA LIFE TOWER

**租售热线:**  
**Enquiry hotline:**  
**65886868**

**Developer:**  
**Beijing Zhong Baixin Real Estate development Ltd**

**Designer:**  
**RTKL Company**

**Dart Foreign Affairs Management Office**

*\*Yard architecture with European style*  
*\*sufficient parking space, convenient traffic, complete facilities and offering service around the day*  
*\*\*Dart Commerce Office*

1. it is located between CBD center and Guomao  
2. favourable price: RMB3-4 yuan/squaremeter/day  
3. telephone number: 65032597 or 64951817

**\*\*Dart Commerce Garden**

1. it is located in the New Olympic sphere and it is between foreign account office and the Chinese-Japanese Hospital  
2. favourable price: RMB 2.8-3.5 yuan/squaremeter/day  
3. telephone number: 65032097 or 65032598

My company also has open separate foreign office building with 15000 square meter to be sold (including property right). It is located in north-eastern corner of Siyuan Bridge.

**赛特饭店 SCITECH HOTEL**

**BUSINESS FLOOR ON LINE**

Business Floor Standard Room: USD98+15%SC  
Business Floor Suite: USD138+15%SC  
Business Floor Duplex Suite: USD300+15%SC

Express check in & check out Free use 3DDS Internet Lines  
One free buffet in Coffee Shop per day Daily newspaper & Magazine Free use swimming pool, GYM and sauna Free income faxes  
Daily happy hours: (17:30-18:30) Welcome amenities on arrival  
One piece free pressing per day

**ADD: No. 22 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing 10004 P.R. China**  
**Tel: 8610-65123388**  
**Fax: 8610-65123542**  
**E-mail: sthotel@w.com.cn**

**保罗大厦**

**◇To South of Lan Dao building, it's new building**  
**◇Area: 3500m2-4000m2, 430spm/per floor**  
**◇This building is available to Bank, Negotiable Securities, Business Center, restaurant etc.**  
**◇24 hours security & hot water**

**Tel: 65958081 65958060**  
**Mobil: 13701350511 13910890956**  
**Add: No. 38 Chao Wai Avenue Chao Yang district Beijing**

**北京市国宾大厦**  
BEIJING AMBASSADOR MANSION

**Ambassador Mansion**  
**Good News!**

**Newly decorated apartments and offices**  
**Apartment styles Available!**  
**Range from 1 bedroom to 4 bedroom**  
USD1000/month up

**Office Styles**  
Next area from 20m2-1600m2

**Ambassador Mansion is an excellent choice for your business or life**  
**For more information**  
**Call us at 010-64384093**  
**or fax on 010-64380148**

**龙潭涉外公寓**  
LONGTAN APARTMENTS

**from \$500/month. 34-110 sq.m (studio, 1-2 bedrooms)**  
**Fully furnished with satellite TV, IDD appliances.**  
**24 hour hot water, security, plentiful parking**  
**near the Temple of Heaven, Chongwen District**  
**call now for more details.**  
**67115358 67128749**

**City Plaza (Phase) And Palace International**

Address: 3A, Shi Lipu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China  
Transportation: conveniently close to Chaoyang Road, Jingtong Express Way, and Ciyunsi Bridge of the 4th Ring Road  
Services: Receptionist (Lobby), Tickets, Room Service, Home Maid, Room Cleaning, Home Appliance Repairs, and Flowers.  
Rental Returns: USD900.00-2200 per month  
Current Occupation Rate: Offices: 100%; Department 95.7%  
Business Tax: 0.4%  
Management Fees: Palace International: RMB800 per square meter per month for Cleaning, Security (in-door and out-door) Vegetation, Elevators, Elevators, Minor Repairs, Room.

**HOT TEL: 65561798**

**Sunflower Tower**  
**盛福大厦**

**Investors:** Philipp Holzmann Anlagen GmbH  
**Location:** No. 37, Maizidian Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing Next to the Liang Ma Hotel. Located at the East 3rd Ring Road  
**Area:** 817 square meters (based on architectural area) on 24th Floor  
**Asking rent:** USD28/month/sqm (gross including management)  
**Communication:** Supplied nodes IDD lines and 4MB of Capacity ISDN is available  
**Elevator:** 10 KONE elevators HVAC System: Four-pipe system  
**Amenities:** Business center, Exhibition facilities, Retail space  
**Existing Tenants:** Walt Disney, BASY, KONE, E-turtle Next work

**Tel: 85275696-608**

**寻求合作**

**本公司欲求东二环、东三环附近写字楼式办公楼进行合作。要求: 手续合法, 价格合理, 中介免谈, 真心合作者请来电: 64055786**

this newspaper's perennial legal adviser: Beijing jingtai law office

**undertaking mostly:**

1. real estate business that buy, rent and manage kinds of licences in Beijing;
2. foreign cases, maritime, finance, bond, important and difficult affairs;
3. debt, economy contract, foreign marriage cases, criminal defense;
4. notarizations;
5. holding perennial legal advisers for foreign enterprises, providing legal assistance;
6. providing law, regulations and contract versions in any languages.

TEL: 86-10-83511218 FAX: 86-10-83525557  
http://www.venus-law.com e-mail: jt@venus-law.com



# Voters Beaten, Persecutor Promoted

A Xinhua reporter recently revisited a village in Hebei Province where seven years ago, locals were beaten due to their failure to vote for the designated candidates in the village leadership election.

Why was the case suspended for seven years? What's behind this case? It is well known that there are often some big "protectors" behind the key figure(s) in such cases. And most importantly, some officials are indifferent to people's sufferings and abuse their positions to prevent justice from being done.

By Ivy Zhang

Dalinggongzhuang is an unremarkable village in Fengrun county of Tangshan city, Hebei province, 160 km from Beijing. In 1994, more than 100 villagers failed to vote for the "designated" candidates during the village committee leadership election. Afterwards, dozens of villagers were beaten so severely that a number of them became disabled, while many others were illegally detained. Villagers tried in vain to report the matter to local authorities on numerous occasions, only to suffer further persecution.

At the end of 1999, Xinhua News Agency covered the story, which attracted the attention of the Hebei provincial party committee and local government. According to villagers, several work teams at provincial, city and county level have visited the village over the past two years to investigate. But core issues remain unsolved. Xinhua again sent a reporter to Dalinggongzhuang village and published a story based on their findings. The following is based on that report.

## "What should we do," villagers ask?

Villagers surrounded the reporter the moment he stepped into the village. "The provincial investigation team has settled the case, but the unjust treatment people suffered has not been addressed. Yang Jinming, the perpetrator of the beatings and former director of the public security committee in the village, has not only escaped punishment, he has even been promoted. What should we do?"

"In 1994, I was taken to the village committee, given a beating



Villagers' buttocks and faces were beaten black and blue

and fined 50 yuan because I disclosed the vote rigging," said a villager named Gu Shijin, with tears in his eyes, "after the provincial work team came, the village committee was asked to return 50 yuan to me. However, the committee said I must acknowledge my mistakes before getting the money. I made no mistakes and what the hell is there to admit? So I haven't got my money back even now."

"Village leaders were inhuman. They beat me near to death," said Gu Shishun, a villager in his 40's. "At that time, the doctor concluded that I was severely injured and I stayed in hospital at a cost of more than 6,000 yuan. So far, the village has given me not a penny. Six years passed, I still suffer from dizziness and headaches. In the past, I was able to earn 10,000 yuan a year. But now, I can't do any heavy labor." He pushed back his hair to reveal a 2-inch scar on his forehead.

## Problems thoroughly resolved, say local officials!

The reporter made a follow-up interview with Hebei

provincial committee's "Dalinggongzhuang Village Case" investigation team.

According to the provincial investigation team, comprising of 22 staff from 10 governmental organs including the court, procuratorate, disciplinary committee and civil affairs bureau, they went to Dalinggongzhuang village on February 24 last year. After a two-month investigation, a 113-page report was made and the case was declared to have been cleared up. On June 17, 2000, this report was made public to the entire village.

Li Enjiu, a member of Tangshan city's communist party committee, noted that a leading team was formed within the committee to implement issues handed down by the investigation team. According to him, all outstanding problems have been thoroughly settled.

The report shown by related authorities of Tangshan city and Fengrun county revealed that 24 issues handed down by the provincial work team have all been "resolved". So why is the public not satisfied?

## Resolution of core issues distorted, say villagers.

In the investigation report on Hebei provincial committee's "Dalinggongzhuang Village Case", a total of 24 issues were transferred to Tangshan city and Fengrun County for on-site resolution. Among these are finding the person responsible for the 1994 village committee leadership selection incident and settling the case of Yang Jinming's illegal detainment of villagers.

As far as the villagers are concerned, there are only two major issues: that of the villagers' being beaten and fined, and punishment of the perpetrator of the beatings.

However, villagers were required to admit their "mistakes" in order to get their money back. Furthermore, the clear-cut case of Yang Jinming's illegal detainment and beating of four villagers became "complicated" as soon as the provincial investigation team left the village.

At first, someone found Gu Shishun, one of the victims in the beating case, and offered 60,000 for him to withdraw the appeal. The offer was turned down by Gu. Later, Yang Jinming's wife made a statement to the public security bureau of Fengrun County saying that the cut on Gu's head was due to a traffic accident, rather than being beaten. A report was promptly issued stating that the victim's injury could not be definitely attributed to Yang's illegal detainment. Afterwards, the beating case was dropped because the appeal was overdue.

With the dropping of the beating case, Yang turned out to be "innocent" and was later promoted to the post of General Secretary of the Village Party Committee.



Home-made revolver and bullets found at Jia Shiqi's home

# Police Smash Drug and Prostitution Gang

By Ivy Zhang

The police of Haidian District, Beijing, smashed a criminal gang involved in drug trafficking, prostitution and concealing firearms on November 13. A total of 44 criminals were arrested, and drugs, firearms, and an Audi car worth of 600,000 yuan were seized.

Since this May, based on leads provided by the public, local police had collected a quantity of evidence

and arrested 11 people on drug charges. During further investigations, a drug-addict named Jia Shiqi came the police's attention. In the early morning of June 6, police broke into QiAo Restaurant run by Jia Shiqi, catching him with a quantity of heroin, arms and a pile of nude photos and "confessions".



Jia Shiqi (left) was arrested along with his accomplices

Photos by Wu Jianzhong

## An evil soul behind

### Yongfeng Iron Gate

Jia Shiqi, 38, lives in Yongfeng town, Haidian district. About 10 years ago, he opened a restaurant named QiAo in Daniufang village of Yongfeng town. In 1999, the restaurant expanded with the installation of Karaoke facilities. This May, due to the road construction, Jia relocated his restaurant in the south of the village, covering an area of 250 square meters.

From the outside, the restaurant appears more like a private house, with a courtyard in the center and surrounded by 3-meter red brick walls. In addition to two smaller locked doors on the side rooms, there is a big white electronically operated iron gate at the entrance. It's usually closed in the daytime and villagers call it "Yongfeng Iron Gate".

About 8 o'clock in the morning of June 6, policemen broke into Jia's home and arrested him. In a box on the bedside table, a home-made small caliber revolver was found, along with 16 bullets and almost six grams of heroin. Furthermore, in a drawer beneath the TV set were 32 color photos of naked men, and a pile of confessions. In addition to Jia, his wife, accomplices and 22 prostitutes were also seized.

## Wife made money from running brothel

Liu Yuping, Jia's wife, looks like an ordinary housewife but is one of the major accomplices in forcing young women into prostitution. From 1999 when Jia's Karaoke bar was added, the couple decided to run a brothel and

Liu took on the task of arranging girls to work for them.

From 1999 to the end of 2000, more than 20 girls who were tricked and brought to QiAo restaurant from northeast China became prostitutes. On entering the restaurant, they were immediately locked up and prevented from leaving.

The couple stopped at nothing to coax girls into "selling" themselves for big money. Those who refused

were forced with threats or a beating. One girl aged 18 came to the restaurant expecting to be a waitress. After discovering she was expected to become a prostitute, she refused and suffered a beating. Another girl from Liaoning province was raped by Jia's men before being forced to sell herself. One girl found on the premises was forced to be less than 14 years old.

Liu charged guests 20 yuan for a girl to accompany them singing and drinking and 100 yuan for a girl to accompany them into the "guest room".

## Nude photos and confessions

Although QiAo restaurant is located in a remote part of Haidian, guests kept driving a long way to enjoy the "special" services.

According to villagers, many cars would park in front of the restaurant and leave after midnight or the next morning, before the restaurant moved. After its relocation, there was still a mysterious air about the restaurant, as the gate was always closed in the daytime and guests would come and go in a furtive manner.

Beginning last year, Jia started to blackmail guests who came for the prostitutes. Jia's men would tie the guests up, beat them and take their cash or cell phones away, while accusing them of "making trouble" or "failing to pay service fees". Afterwards, they were stripped and photographed and forced to write confessions. Jia would keep their cars and ID cards until they paid a 5,000 yuan "fine".

According to police, the faces of many of the people photographed were bruised and bleeding. Jia later admitted that he did all this with an aim of blackmailing those people. They certainly would not dare report the matter to the police for fear that their illegal behavior would be exposed.



Zhang Kaihua (left), a villager who was savagely beaten by village heads 7 years ago, and his wife

Photos by Zhou Wenguang





# Living Through The Third Eye

By Hu Xiaoli

From the moment Qian Xiaohong felt the contours of a camera in her hands, she knew photography would guide her life forever. "I've found the perfect way to see the world and express myself from a unique angle," said Qian, a woman of 30 years of age who has ploughed all her youth and energy into this art for more than 15 years. She now owns a successful photography studio in Beijing.

With short hair, casual clothes and bubbly laughter, Qian exuded an easy-going, optimistic manner. Sitting in her own studio, she told of a woman's persistent dream in a world of light and color.

## The Seed of a Dream

Qian's dream blossomed in a small county in eastern China's Anhui province. Photography was a tough (and expensive) choice for a girl living in a small county, so Qian's childhood dream included no artistic strains.

"What I hoped was to be a rich woman working in a big international company in a metropolitan city," Qian recalled, "that was the dream for many girls born in a small county."

Qian quickly forgot her first dream for another after inspiration from her elder brother. "One day my brother brought a camera home with great excitement," Qian recalled with a smile. In those days, little Qian posed as a model for photos, but was never allowed to do the one thing she was longing to: get her hands on the camera. Once her brother opened a studio at home, Qian stopped being a model and finally got to find out how a camera worked.

"My first camera was an old Chinese-made camera from my brother. It was a 'Sea-gull', and was very old, but good enough for me. I began shooting what I saw and liked, and that's what I'm still doing today." In those days, her brother was busy at his work and had no time to instruct her, so she taught herself from books. After she had shot the first thirty-six exposures, though, she had to learn to develop the film. At the beginning, she made ridiculous mistakes, but slowly discovered how the process worked. After her brother finished his work and went to bed at night, she would go to work in the dark room. "It was not very pleasant, because I had to be quiet, but I learned how to develop."

The most anxious and exciting time was waiting for the pictures to appear. She believed the world in pictures touched a more real plane of reality, yielding more color. "Good photographs are like a



third eye looking directly into the inner part of things," is the feeling Qian gets from her art.

## A Hard Road to Tread

For Qian, the love for photography has been the most important theme in her life. "But it's still a rocky path," Qian confessed.

Not long after graduating from high school, she opened a photography studio by herself in the county. "That was the first studio run by a woman in my hometown," Qian said proudly. The name of the studio was Zai Ye. According to Qian, the name doesn't have any special meaning, but was just a word she overheard from some college students. She liked its pronunciation and kept it as the name of the studio. This supports the theory she holds to while shooting, "I was born with instincts. When taking a photo, I never calculate or consider; I see a situation and know it's right, even if I have to go back to exploit the proper lighting," Qian explained.

Qian kept her dream confined to the county and as the days went by, she got married and gave birth to a baby girl. Like so many others, however, she felt the pull of another world outside the county. She realized her destiny lay in shooting more pictures and opening a studio in a large city.

While shopping for photographic equipment for the studio, she visited several big cities, including Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai, and Beijing. In 1995, Qian came to Beijing for the first time. At that time she lived in Xicheng District, an old residential area in Beijing packed full of old Siheyuan and hutongs. The combination of modern-built and ancient buildings deeply attracted her. Having taken numerous pictures in Beijing, her photographic senses came alert with fresh inspiration.

The decision to come to Beijing opened a whole new world for Qian, although the ultimate cost



was high. She got divorced and lost nearly everything she had owned, including her house, studio and her family's support. Fortunately, she still had her daughter, but had to leave her in Anhui before leaving for Beijing.

Using her experience and hard work, Qian opened a new photography studio specializing in shooting portraits in Beijing's hutongs. "The first studio was only 25 square meters, so I had to build an attic which simultaneously served as a dark room and bedroom," she said smiling.

When things began to go smoothly, a minor tragedy occurred. Her little daughter Xiaotu was seriously hurt on the leg by a broken tree. Qian took the next train home, and when the little girl cried 'mommy', she burst into tears. "I am not a qualified mother because I haven't devoted all my heart to my daughter. The passion for photography was greater than my devotion to my daughter," she said emotionally. After her daughter recovered, Qian took her to Beijing and decided never to leave her aside again.

## Focusing on Hutong Portraits

"I can't remember exactly when I began to focus on the hutong portraits," Qian related. During her time living and working in a hutong, she would wander around the alleys many times in a day. According to her, hutongs present different colors and atmosphere as the day moves through its course. The crumbling doors, gray bricks and life inside the hutongs gave her an inexhaustible treasury for photographic inspiration. The tranquil atmosphere and threat of demolition facing the hutongs carved a very special image in her mind. She realized she had to capture the inner soul of hutongs. "Just like people have emotions and history, hutongs also have their own," Qian claimed.

She would first select the right

client, someone with a calm, old-fashioned character in their heart although modern in appearance. Gradually more people became interested in hutong portraits.

Once, a middle-aged woman quietly stepped into the studio. She said she was attracted by the hutong pictures in the window. The woman had lived in Japan for 10 years and was back in Beijing to visit relatives. She told Qian that all her childhood was spent in hutongs and Siheyuan, and that she wanted to keep them forever in her mind. "Wearing the old Qipao against the background of an old hutong, the woman seemed to float back to her precious memories; that picture was also rooted in my mind," Qian feels happy to see other people's dreams come true through her work.

The more she took pictures, the more she felt attachment to hutongs. When she has spare time on her hands, she likes to wander around hutongs with a camera, and her best partner in business and friend in life, Guo Lanyan, a girl who shares the same passion as her. They while a whole day away when it's fine, feeling the atmosphere of every hutong.

Hutong portraits have also influenced her little daughter, Xiaotu. She often takes a foolproof camera taking pictures in hutongs with dolls as models. "Maybe she will be a photographer," Qian said with excitement.

"Photography has brought me a passion for life, an eternal passion, an everlasting curiosity for this world. I am given an eye through the camera to see the world with emotion and passion. You know, nearly everybody can look, but they don't necessarily see," Qian ended her story and stood up to work.

- ① Discussing with her partner in photography
- ② Choosing photographing angles in hutong
- ③ Talking with a client in the studio
- ④ Taking photos in hutong
- ⑤ Instructing her daughter photography

Photos by Wang Jie / Zhuang Jian

We are interested in reporting common people, their stories, their feelings. If you have any personal experiences or you know someone who have such experiences, please contact us.

We would like to help you if you have any trouble, we would like to share your happiness if you are cheerful.

Our E-mail Address is:  
Portrait @ ynet.com  
Our Fax Number is:  
(010) 6590 2525



# Taste a Flavor of Beijing

By Miao Yajie

Many writers of the 1920's or 30's who lived in Beijing praised the charms of the city in their articles: blue sky, mellow golden leaves, pigeons' whistles, peddlers' cries, and the unhurried, leisurely, carefree life of Beijingers. However, these were just a few of the things that could represent the Beijing of their time. Beijing, with 800 years as the capital of the great empire in its 3,000 years of history, forms its own ambience. Its culture, tangible and intangible, is crowned with the title of 'culture of Beijing flavor' for its strong locality. If asked to name something of 'Beijing flavor', in other words, what could best represent Beijing, many would list the Forbidden City, Beijing opera, Liulichang and so on, but probably few could explain exactly the connotation of 'Beijing flavor' (京味儿), when it originated, and most importantly, how it could be inherited, passed on and carried forward in a time of fast change. This is the focus of the Saturday lectures at the Culture Center of Xuanwu District, already on-going for two months.

The city of Beijing, first called Jicheng, was built over 3,040 years ago. Beijing began to serve as the capital in the Liao Period (916-1125). It was called 'Nanjing', and the population of that time was 300,000. Then in the Jin Period (1115-1234), it was called 'Zhongdu'. In the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), it was called 'Dadu', and the center of the city was Jishuitan. In the 18th year of the reign of the Emperor Yongle (1403-1424), 30,000 skillful craftsmen were brought to Beijing, and built the capital following the city structure of the Han Dynasty (206BC-220AD). In the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Beijing became the thoroughfare connecting the north and south of China.

Beijing, due to its extensive and profound historical accumulation rears a kind of 'free' cultural personality among its natives, who believe in everything and nothing. According to Manchu writer Zhao Danian, the sense of both the imperial citizen and the populace is combined in one. This can be traced from the Beijing dialect: for example, everyone could be called '爷'(ye), meaning 'sir'. His majesty, the emperor is called '万岁爷', those who rode the flat-bed tricycles were called '板爷', and the profiteer is called '倒爷'.

The freedom and magnanimity of Beijing has attracted cultural



Lao She (1899-1966)

elites from all around the country to Beijing for generations: together they created the cultural flavor of the city.

Beijing's dialect, its literature, customs, food, people's living philosophy, architecture, various kind of folk arts, all enjoy distinctive characteristics. To be specific, according to experts, the culture of Beijing flavor consists of imperial culture, scholar-officials' culture, commercial culture, religious culture, and folk culture.

Moreover, as Li Jinlong, writer and planner of the series Saturday lectures, explained, Xuanwu District is the most qualified to hold such lectures, and most responsible to advocate culture of Beijing flavor since the earliest Beijing-Jicheng—was located in the current Xuanwu District. There exist nowadays over fifty cultural relics such as Tianningsi Pagoda built in the Liao Period, Fayuan Temple built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Taiye Pond built in the Jin Dynasty, and the Altar to the Land built in the Ming Dynasty. Xuanwu District is also home to Liulichang Culture Street that flourished in the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty. Dashila Street, the core commercial street in Xuanwu boasts a history of 600 years. Niujie area,

inhabited by the Hui nationality, famous for its mosque of over 1,000 years old, is called the oriental Mecca. Many of the best loved Beijing opera artists including Mei Lanfang once lived and got famous here. The old Tianqiao area as the cradle of Beijing's folk art remains fresh in many old Beijingers' minds. And numerous guildhalls and former residences of the celebrities have left stories and anecdotes still on peoples' lips.

Actually not only can 'Beijing flavor' not be clearly explained in a few words, the definition of 'Beijinger' is also ambiguous. "Beijingers must have tried douzhi (a fermented drink made from water used in grinding green beans), no one could be called a Beijinger without trying douzhi," joked Li Jinlong. That's perhaps why the 70-year-old writer Shao Yanxiang started the series of lectures with his 'I could be counted as a Beijinger'.

Mentioning novels with a Beijing flavor, there is one man who could not be missed. This is Lao She, who wrote in typical Beijing vernacular about Beijing people, and who is praised as one of the Chinese writers worthy of receiving a Nobel Prize. Shu Yi, Lao She's son, the curator of the Modern Literature Museum, gave

Photo taken from Tianqiao of Old Beijing

a lecture on 'Lao She and the culture of Beijing flavor'. In all the forms of traditional cultures, Beijing *quyi* (folk storytelling and singing) is among those facing a severe predicament. In his two-hour lecture, Li Yan, painter and expert on folk customs, gave the audience a taste of the charms of storytelling in Beijing dialect with drum accompaniment, cross talk and peddlers' cries.

"The audience totaled 160," according to Li Jinlong. The fact that people come all the way to the lecture proves the appeal of the lecturers and the charisma of the 'Beijing flavor' culture.

Besides the aforementioned celebrities, famous writers such as Lin Jinlan, Zhao Danian, Chen Jiangong, Deng Youmei all agreed to attend the Saturday lectures, and more scholars, theorists, folk art experts, dramatists and artists will be invited to give lectures on multiple aspects of Beijing culture.

The next lecture will be given by writer Liang Xiaosheng on December 8. His topic is 'Culture of Beijing Flavor and WTO'. For more information and free registration, please call 63030803.

Location: Culture center of Xuanwu District, 29 East Street, Liulichang.

## Carvings Museum Helps Save Folk Heritage

By Shi Xinyu

"I've been here three times this month, but met with disappointment every time for it's still not open," said Zhao Wenhua, a middle-aged fan of collections. On a chilly November morning in front of the exquisite wooden-carved doors at No. 14 Liulichang East Street, he told the reporter, "Those doors tell me the museum must be worth waiting for." Now Zhao Wenhua can count the days for the museum's opening, as it was granted a license on November 16<sup>th</sup>, according to Li Wei, the museum's owner. The Song Tang Zhai Chinese Folk Carvings Museum is the fifth privately run museum in Beijing to open its doors to the public.

Inside the well-preserved old building, the 280-square-meter space will be divided into 3 exhibiting rooms, each presenting woodcarvings, stone carvings and brick carvings. All displayed items are carvings made by folk crafts-

men and used in daily life in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, such as the doorway stones at the front gates, the windows, doors and screens in wood or stone, and the carved bricks decorating the wall inscribed with "Liulichang".

All the exhibits in the Song Tang Zhai Chinese Folk Carvings Museum are from the private collections of Li Wei. Since he collected the first pair of doorway stones at the age of nine, his passion for collecting has lasted for more than 40 years.

"We can find all kinds of good wishes, old fairy tales, stories and legends in these carved articles used in ordinary people's homes. It is another record of our traditional culture," explained Li, "But now most of these articles get damaged and disappear every day. So I opened this museum in the hope that it might save something for people to gain a better idea of the spirit of Chinese culture."

Photo by Zhuang Jian



## 旅游 · 度假 · 休闲 TEL: 68997124 68311626

### pick up your Walnuts on the Xiangshuihu Great Wall

Great Wall, Ancient Mountain, Cleat Spring, Flying Waterfall. join us to the Xiangshuihu Great Wall, you will see all the above scenery. Xiangshuihu locates at the west part of Mutianyu Huairou. Besides the lots interesting place, it also has a folurish orchard with apple, date, pear, walnut, chestnut, grape, edible wild herbs. From August 25 to October, Xiangshuihu will have a special activity "Visit Great Wall, pick Up Fruits". Call now: 010-61631085 61632539 61631588 Take bus: No.916at DongZhimen Web site: www.Xiangshuihu.com

## 友谊宾馆康乐部 The Friendship Hotel Recreation Center

The outdoor swimming pool of the Friendship Hotel is one of the highest standard swimming pools of Beijing. The swimming pool is equipped with 7-meter diving platforms and delicate diving boards. The strict sterilization measures and the circulation system ensure the water is always clean. Morning opening 6:30-8:30 RMB30/day, RMB400/month, and RMB1000/quarter. Tel: 68499696



友谊宾馆室外泳池是北京国际高标准泳池, 配有7米的跳台和小巧的跳板, 严格的消毒措施和水循环系统, 使其永远具有碧蓝的水质。早场: 6:00-8:30, 30元/天, 400元/月, 1000元/季度。咨询电话: 68499696

## 彼岸潜水俱乐部 欢迎您 The Other Side (Bi'an) Diving Club

The club provides the sports fans with professional service besides fun and coolness in the hot summer. Adopting sophisticated foreign training textbooks and equipment, the club provides professional training such as the swimming and diving courses and organizes diving tours home and abroad. With the internationally accepted training method, it takes the trainee only 20 hours to get the CMAS diving certificate which is acknowledged all over the world. The trainees have free and flexible choice as to the training time. The swimming course consists of elementary level, improving level, advanced level, honored guest class and the class paid by the hour. Swimming and diving summer camp. Sign up now! Time for the opening of the courses: the early April. The trainee can begin the course on signing up at any time. The summer courses begin on 1 June. Course time: 9:00-20:00, 7 days a week. Time for signing up: 9:00-21:00, 7 days a week. Place for signing up: The Professional Club of the Friendship Hotel (No. 3, Baishiqiao Road, Haitian District, 200 meters south of Renmin University). Tel: 68713790 68713791 68498613 Telex: 68713790 Take buses no. 320, 804, 302 or Yantong buses no. 104, 105, 205, 106 and get off at Shuang'an Shangchang stop. Or take bus no. 811 or Te 6 and get off at Renming Daxue stop.



北京彼岸潜水俱乐部是一家专门为体育爱好者提供专业服务的运动休闲俱乐部。在这里您可以享受到一个清凉的夏季, 让您在开心之余, 还可获得一些专业培训。彼岸的服务宗旨: 由国际权威机构认证的教练和先进设备, 开设了游泳和潜水课程。同时全年组织到全国各地和世界各城市进行潜水旅游。而且正与国外权威的潜水学校合作, 经过二十小时的培训, 可以获得国际公认的CMAS潜水证书。根据您的时间安排, 灵活选择上课时间。潜水课程分初、中、高级, 潜水, 潜水, 潜水, 潜水, 潜水。暑期开办游泳潜水夏令营, 即日起报名。开课时间: 4月初开课, 随报随学。6月1日开夏季班, 全天训练。授课时间: 每日9:00-20:00 (周六、日不休息) 报名时间: 每日9:00-21:00 (周末不休) 报名地点: 友谊宾馆康乐部 (海淀区阜成路3号, 人民大学向南200米) 联系电话: 68713790 68713791 68498613 传真: 68713790 乘车路线: 运通104, 105, 205, 302, 804路, 302路双安商场下车; 811, 特6路人民大学下车



汇中颐园——距离城区最近的具有中国古典式建筑风格的商务会所, 位于东三环南端, 毗邻京瑞饭店、潘家园古玩城, 距离CBD 驱车10分钟的路程, 它不仅拥有古色典雅的餐厅, 而且涵盖了六个风格各异、功能不同的四合院。

餐厅“养生堂”诚邀五星级饭店厨师加盟, 主理养生餐、新派粤菜。餐厅可同时容纳三百余人就餐。东西两侧十四间包房风格各异, 演出效果最佳的中央舞台巨大的京剧脸谱烘托出整个大厅浓郁的传统文文化氛围。与中央电视台合作为十一频道《戏迷俱乐部》栏目提供了录制场地。

汲雅斋为书画院, 由汇中颐园与中国书画家联谊会合办, 其既可以举行各种展览和笔会, 也可以供爱好者低价收藏名人字画及明清家具真品。

鼎盛阁, 其装饰以中国古文化为底蕴, 有记载中医学基础的《黄帝内经》, 也有《聊斋志异》中的《小翠》, 是商务会议及宴请的良好场所。

茗荟居为茶园, 其包房有皇家式、农家式、日式等不同风格。古玩、玉器、灶台、腊肉、点缀其间。置身于此, 品茗论道, 其乐无穷。

颐生堂汇中颐园与中国中医研究院合作的养生健康咨询中心, 有中医保健、药浴等服务项目, 同时为会员建立健康卡。

汇中颐园——都市中的世外桃源。全体员工真诚期待您的光临!

电话(TEL): 67320035, 67322002-209 传真(FAX): 67320017





# Tracing Beijing's Cultural Celebrities

## A Father and Daughter's Odyssey

By Zhao Pu

"The book is quite interesting, my classmates like it too. But the photos are not that good; some of them are a little silly. And my friends say that I look ugly in those photos, not as pretty as I am now." Gao Shanliushui (高山流水), a 9-year-old girl unexpectedly provided an objective and entertaining evaluation of her father's book.

Her father, Gao Xing, designer for a magazine named *China Insurance* brought out a personal photographic book in September. The book embodies 150 monochrome pictures taken in former residences of cultural and historical celebrities in Beijing, with accompanying prose depicting the stories surrounding the places and their former owners. The book is distinctly differentiated from similar books or albums, with the foil of a little girl's appearance in each of the photos. The little girl's footsteps transcended space and time, collecting the traces of culture and history in the city.

The father Gao started to seek out the big names that once breathed life into the remaining old sections of the city with his daughter from 1995, when the little girl enrolled in kindergarten at the age of 3. "It was a purely personal motivation at first, with no intention of publishing a book or anything," Gao explained, "I simply wanted to show my little daughter around the old part of the city; the photos were taken to leave a memento for both my daughter and those old houses once inhabited by cultural masters. Some of those valuable cultural remains will probably be dismantled before she grows up."

The author has made his love for those old residences and feelings into a kind of cultural relic. He includes a tragic warning as he puts a '拆' character (dismantle) at the end of the book. "It's an inevitable war between scramble and anti-scramble in the modernization process of the city, and we hope that more of those 'antiques' could be left for the coming generations to look back on, not only from photos or maps," remarked Gao.

The first edition issued only 1,000 copies by the China Photography Publishing House, and the books are available in Xidan and Sanlian Bookstores.



Photo by Chen Shuyi



The compound once inhabited by Cao Xueqin is now a part of a shopping complex

Photo by Gao Xing

### Cao Xueqin and No. 33 Small Stone Tiger Alley

Cao Xueqin, a Qing Dynasty novelist, is the cultural celebrity I worship most, so I have a great interest in all his traces in the capital city. This alley prompted me to go with my daughter in search of his footsteps, and also forms the first of the series of pictures in this collection.

In September 1995, my daughter entered kindergarten in Big Stone Tiger Alley on the west side of Shishahai. It is an old dwelling in a courtyard and my daughter's lodging is a row of old-fashioned houses. There is a moon gate and some remains of stone monuments in the courtyard. After doing some research, I found that Cao Xueqin once lived in Stone Tiger Alley, and became very excited, sensing a connection between that small courtyard and Cao Xueqin. Further investigation revealed however that the Stone Tiger Alley where Cao Xueqin lived was in Xidan, called Small Stone Tiger Alley.

This discovery led me directly to take my daughter on a hunt for the series of former residences related to Cao Xueqin. Even though my daughter's kindergarten is in the Big Stone Tiger Alley, the surrounding area is still connected to Cao Xueqin. Even up to this moment, I still cannot say who lived in this tiny courtyard, but who can rule out the possibility that Cao Xueqin once dropped in here?

No.33 Small Stone Tiger Alley in Xidan was the Right Wing Zongxuefu School, where Cao Xueqin once worked before he went to the West Mountains to write his book. It is said that the small courtyard was one of the "Four Well-known Haunted Houses" of Beijing. Ji Xiaolan once described this house in the following words: "Gong Wenda's mansion is in the Stone Tiger Alley inside Xuanwu Gate. Before Wenda, it was the Right Wing Zongxue School; before the Zongxue, it was the residence of Wu Efu (son of Wu Sangui), and before Wu Efu, it was the house

of Zhou Yanru, a great scholar of the Ming Dynasty. With such a long history, unavoidably there are sometimes unusual occurrences, although no one has as yet been harmed. There are two tiny rooms in the west, called 'Hao Chun Xuan (Good Spring Rooms)', where Wenda entertained his guests; a door through the north wall leads to two even smaller rooms where the child servants slept at night. After they fell asleep, strange creatures often appeared, no one could tell whether they were ghosts or foxes, hence, no one dared to put up there."

Cao Xueqin first worked as a private teacher at Ma Qi's home in the same alley, where he met with the brothers Guo Min and Guo Cheng, forming a poetry group with them, reciting poems and wielding a writing brush, defying the authorities and arguing with eloquence, snuffing the candles and conversing freely...In his poem "In Memory of Cao Xueqin", Guo Cheng says, "Together we dwelled at Tiger

Gate for days, chatting late into night accompanied by wind and rain."

It is just here that Cao Xueqin began to conceive his lifetime work, *Dream of the Red Chamber*. We can imagine, when the golden wind started, that the summer heat had gradually died away, and the night gradually became longer and longer, the autumn light was full of taste: what a great enjoyment their night talks must have been! Unfortunately, we do not have the good fortune to listen, and have let the golden words vanish into the air! According to Mr. Zhou Ruchang, "The 300-year-old jujube tree in the yard must have 'seen' Cao Xueqin."

Now my daughter just turns a blind eye to the "King of Jujube Trees" of Beijing, only climbing up and down the wall to play. Outside is the "Nation's Great World" emporia, and the crowd of people there take no notice of the ancient tree either, seeming just to be looking ahead. (Extract from the book)

**Gao Xing**, born in January 1962, now works with the periodical, *China Insurance*:

"In addition to painting, poetry and photography, my major activity is roaming. Now I have several personal anthologies and collections of prose works published. In art, I take an avant-garde approach, but in culture, I prefer a conventional way, thus, I have begun to get into collecting in recent years. Since 1995, I have been taking my daughter to visit the former residences of cultural celebrities scattered throughout the capital, accumulating a lot of pictures and verbal descriptions, which, as purely personal mementos, are only for soothing my insatiable desire to collect. It seems that everything in the pictures can be loaded into my heart."



Photo by Gao Xing

**Gao Shanliushui** was born in September 1992, and is now at Xiaoyueyuan Primary School attached to Beijing Normal University:

"I have a naturally lively character, and have been a dormitory head for several months. I published my child poem in the *Journal of Poetry* at the age of four, and performed a dance at Jingfeng Theatre at the age of eight. I like drawing pictures and making greeting cards using computer graphics, and enjoy drinking Coca-Cola while playing the piano. For years, I have been following my dad through streets and alleys. Who knows how much traditional cultural flavor has gone deep into my marrow? Even to such an extent that I call all one-story houses 'old houses', and call all cultural celebrities 'people from the old society'."



美奥劳务服务有限公司  
MEI AO LABOR SERVICE CO., LTD

# 美奥保洁

## 营造现代人的清新生活空间

愿我们诚实守信精益求精的"美奥人"为您营造出清新美好的生活空间。装备精良的专业进口设备,高水平、规范化的优质服务队伍

### 家居保洁

家庭开荒: 新居入住前的清理、除垢、灭菌、清洗及去污。

家庭定期、不定期除尘除垢、去污、清斑迹,厨房、卫生间及各种地面的养护、打蜡、翻新。

### 商业保洁

面向机关、饭店、写字楼、商厦、医疗机构、社区、超市等大型物业,提供长期、定期的保洁

清洗服务。

### 地毯清洗

各种地毯的清洗去斑及养护

Wish we were honest and faithful. Meiao man seeking for greater perfection gives you delightfully fresh living space.

Professional import facilities with excellent kit, high quality service staffs with high level and standardization.

### House keeping:

Cleaning defecating sterilizing for new residence.

Floor maintaining, face-lifting polishing in kitchen and toilet.

### Commercial preserves:

Serrice for offices, hotels, business buildings, hospitals communities, super markets, etc.

### Carpet cleaning:

Cleanning and mainteance for all kinds of carpet.





# 2001 BEIJING INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

## Jazz Festival Answers Craving of Jazz Fans

By Zhu Lin

"Jazz culture in China still has a long way to go, but I must say the jazz festival this time is a great success." So said Liu Yuan, artistic director of the 8th Beijing International Jazz Festival, which was held from November 16 to 18 at the Beijing Century Theatre.

The brightest star during the three days was absolutely Di- anne Reeves, favorite of the en-

tire jazz world. "Do you have blues in China?" With her sensa- tional voice, she chatted in jazz with the audience. She was en- gulfed in hysterical applause for five minutes at the end. On Satur- day, the Lennart Aberg Trio from Sweden showed their agile musi- cal humor in contrast with Rabi- h Abou-Khalil's Lebanese passion. The festival was wrapped up by Vital Information's magic beats

by drummer Steve Smith.

There were also three Chinese bands performing during the fes- tival. Although they weren't as mature as the renowned Western bands, they got approval and en- couragement from jazz fans. They demonstrated an able technique but still have a lot to learn in terms of creating a lively atmosphere.

Most Chinese jazz players are in Beijing and Shanghai. Each

city is home to three or four bands at most.

"All the bands we invited to Beijing this time were main- stream jazz bands," introduced Zhang Ting, sponsor of the fes- tival, "We hope that next year the program will be more di- versified." Whether her wish could be fulfilled or not still depends on the development of jazz in China.



Photo provided by Yan Xiaoxuan

### "Music is Sensuality"

*Lebanese jazz musician Rabi- h Abou-Khalil's latest re- lease The Cactus Of Knowledge won the bestseller award of jazz music in Germany two months ago. Abou-Khalil plays the oud, a traditional Arabic instrument. His band performed so brilliantly on Saturday during the jazz fes- tival that the audience wouldn't let them go until they played two encores. As the composer of the band's music, he's distinguished for combining Arabic music with jazz.*

*Beijing Today:* You've got professional classical music training. Why did you choose to be a jazz musician?

Rabi- h: To be honest, I don't think what I'm doing now is jazz. The only reason I'm doing jazz is that the word 'jazz' is so open. I mean jazz is so vast a field that there are so many different kinds of jazz.

*Beijing Today:* You're well known for the Arabic flavor in your music. Do you intentionally put an emphasis on that?

Rabi- h: Since I come from an Arabic country and play an Arabic instrument, there's a lot of that in my music. But I'm not nationalistic in the sense that I would always present the music of my country. I'm very open, not like... if something comes into my mind and it's not Arabic, I'll forget it. No!

*Beijing Today:* What's the most important in music for you?

Rabi- h: The most important thing in music is sensual- ity. I think it's the same in all arts. When you look at a painting, or poetry, the most beautiful art is always the one that brings up all your feelings. It's actually like mak- ing love. Making love doesn't just stop there. It goes from one thing to another. It mixes all the feelings we have, the hearing, the seeing, smelling, tasting, feeling, and then we have the best of love.

*Beijing Today:* Jazz musicians in China are usually freelance musicians without a regular salary. What about jazz musicians in your country?

Rabi- h: I don't think it's that different. The state of artists is similar everywhere. If you want to be a musician, it's not an intel- ligent decision. It's not a decision of mind, but of need. I'm a musician not because I want to be, but because I have to. I have the need to ex- press.

*Beijing Today:* Some people often complain, "I'm a poor musi- cian!"

Rabi- h: I don't put much value on how much money a musician makes. What a musician makes is dreams. Audiences look at musi- cians as machines that give them dreams. I'm sure everybody listen- ing to my music has different dreams, and different feelings. But they all agree they like the music--well, I hope so.

(Interviewed by Zhu Lin at the Century Theatre on Nov.17)



Photo by Chen Jianli

### Jazz Rocks!

By Ian Provan

The curtain came down on the 2001 Beijing International Jazz Festival Sunday night with a double bill kicked off by the Moreno Donadel Trio. Italian born Donadel, an accom- plished pianist and composer, has been resident in Beijing for several years, and is a familiar face on the local jazz circuit. They won an enthusiastic response from the crowd, although I for one could have done with two or three fewer double bass solos!

Headline act Vital Information broke the ice for me. I went in a jazz skeptic, and left, if not a convert, then as near as I'm ever going to get! San Francisco based Vital Infor- mation play jazz fusion, which as drummer and band leader Steve Smith suggested, means a lit bit of every kind of jazz you care to name, mixed with a generous serve of rock, rhythm and blues. This could be (and no doubt often is) a recipe for disaster, however from the very first number, the band struck and main- tained a near perfect balance.

Guitarist Frank Gambale created a dense, but beautifully textured sound, making heavy use of volume and wah-wah pedals, while key- board player Tom Coster added some real Cajun fla- vor on a couple of numbers with his piano accordi- on. Slipping into dou- ble time and back again, playing on the beat, off the beat or somewhere to the left of and just behind the beat, each musician dis- played a dazzling virtuosity. However I think what really won me over, was the sense of fun they generated by simply playing together.

## 美食 · 娱乐 · 休闲 TEL: 68997124 68311626

### ZiyiXuan Baochi Lou 紫怡轩鲍翅楼

3rd Floom Building B,  
Donghuan Guangchang,  
29 Dongzhong jie,  
Dongcheng District  
东城区东中街 29 号东环广场 B 幢 3 层  
11:00-14:30,17:00-22:00  
6856.9388

### Beijing Roast Duck 北京烤鸭店

Building3,Tuanjie Lake,Chaoyang District  
朝阳区团结湖北口 3 号楼  
11:40-14:00,17:00-21:30  
6852.4003

### Bianyifang Roast Duck Restaurant 便宜坊

2A Chongwenmenwai Dajie,ChongwenDistrict  
崇文区崇文门大街甲 2 号  
11:00-14:00,17:00-21:30  
Tel:6712.0505

## Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant

Welcome to our Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant.

Our features are undeniable:Walls decorated in purple and deep wine red;colors that really work together to produce a harmony;food that lie on in its contrasts;chefs that create a wonderful medley of hot, cool,sour,sweet,crunchy and soft dishes.Fish cake,deep-fried Taro,Green Pepper & Red Curry Fried with Beef and Minced meat fried with Basil leaves are not to be missed.

And,we have an unique Chinese name,Tai Xiang La,which means Spicy Thai Restaurant,verbally; and Very Good Smell,phonetically.

You're likely to satisfy your taste buds for a mere of RMB18 up, with weekday set lunch from RMB25-50.Tasty and inexpensive.A very good casual dining experience.

Add:8 South Street, Guan Dong Dian,Chaoyang District.  
(North of Kerry Centre Hotel and the back of Hot-Point Disco)  
Tel:6591.7726 Fax:6591.7926

## CLUB GREEN

BEST CLUB IN BEIJING

ADD: Land mark Tower 1/F 8North Dong San  
Huan Road. chaoyang District Beijing

地址:北京市朝阳区东三环北路 8 号亮马河  
大厦一层

TEL: (010)65906999 65906688 — 2988

COME & BE AS COOL AS —  
GREEN



## New French Restaurant Now Open!

来过罗兰·加洛斯吗?

不知你有没有来过罗兰·加洛斯,有没有尝过这里鲜嫩的蜗牛,有没有就着奶酪品味波尔多的葡萄酒,有没有燃着古巴雪茄欣赏网球公开赛?侍者是彬彬有礼的,还能把每款酒,每种烟的来由娓娓道出。氛围是典雅的,还有温暖浪漫的烛光。

这里还有独具特色的网球文化主题服务:专门从海外订购的网球历史文化资料,精彩纷呈的网球主题活动和球友内部通讯,主题网站与“一网打尽”网球网络联盟。

Spoil yourself with genuine French fare and ambiance and a superb vairyety of wines at the **Roland Garros** restaurant. Close a full evening of relaxation with a choice of dramatic desserts, coffees, and Cuban cigars.

**ROLAND GARROS**  
RESTAURANT & BAR, BEIJING, CHINA  
**罗兰·加洛斯** 餐厅

罗兰·加洛斯网球主题法式餐厅  
Roland Garros Restaurant  
Open:11:00-24:00 Daily

地址:朝阳区农展南路朝阳网球俱乐部北门一层  
Address:North Entrance Chaoyang Tennis Club  
Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang District  
Telephone:6508-9100

## 北京好世界阳光酒店 BEIJING FANTASY WORLD CLUB

It offers a full range of services, including fine rooms, restaurants and entertainment centre.

FU LIN Seafood Restaurant: more than 100 kinds of fresh seafood are now 20% off.

Korean Flavour Restaurant: newly open, supply Korean food and barbecue. 20% off.

Entertainment Centre: Bowling, billiards, karaoke and gynimasium.

Tel:(010)68843388-718/620

Add: 1 Gu Cheng Nan Lu Shijingshan District

(100 meters in west from Gu Cheng metro station)

电话:(010)68843388-718/620 (详见店内海报)

地址:石景山区古城南路 1 号(地铁古城站西 100 米)

### Donglaishun Restaurant

东来顺

5/F,Xindong'an Plaza,Wangfujing  
Da jie,Dongcheng District  
东城区王府井大街 新东南商场 5 层  
11:00-14:00,17:00-21:30  
6528.0932

### Fan Shi Gang

饭是钢

140 Andingdajie,Dongcheng District  
东城区安定大街 140 号  
9:00-23:00  
64042187

## 北京之夜酒楼

### Night of Beijing Restaurant

Special offer of seafood as well as many other dishes and salads: shrimp: RMB38; lobster / clam: RMB98

Pleasant ambience and sufficient parking space.

Address: 1 Dayabao Alley, Dongcheng District

Tel: 65272672, 65272704 ext 8865

粤菜 中华餐 商务套餐

特价海鲜 基围虾 38 元龙虾/象拔蚌 98 元

数十款 10 元菜及特价菜 :多款夏日清爽沙拉。

本酒楼内设多间文化厅房,环境优雅,备有充足车位。

地址 东城区大雅宝胡同 1 号电话 65272672 65272704 转 8865



## LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE

By Priscilla

Shopping has already introduced a number of stores selling hand-crafted lamps; both modern, stylized designs, and traditional lamps modeled on antiques and paper lanterns. Today we feature a shop that specializes in wooden lamps boasting of a primitive simplicity and minimalism.

Barely a year old, Lang Mu Handwork (浪木手工坊) offers a distinctive range of wooden lamps. The wooden lamps are made from recycled wood furniture collected from villagers in various parts of China. The wood is treated with a special process that retains and emphasizes its natural dark brown color and texture. All the shapes are designed according to the original form, and shop owner Shi Yan claims every lamp they make is unique. Some are not only beautiful, but also serve dual functions; such as the lamp that extends from a small shelf, and the long-shaped lamp closely attached to a CD rack.

The design and shape of the lamps made in the shop are not bound by any rules. Shi Yan says this is exactly her intention.

As well as wooden lamps, which account for about 80% of the goods on sale, are a selection of small tea tables, stools, cabinets and shelves. If you don't see something that takes your fancy, they also make furniture to order. Prices range from over 100 yuan to several thousand yuan.

**Add:** Lang Mu Handwork, -1F, Fullink Plaza (丰联广场), 18 Chaowaidajie (朝外大街), Chaoyang District.

**Open:** 10am-8:30pm.  
**Tel:** contact Shi Yan at 13910920420.

**Other stores selling hand made lamps:**

**Dadushi Lighting** (大都市灯饰)  
**Add:** Stall 210, Ju Ran Decorating Lamp Elite Hall (居然装饰灯具), 65 Beisihuan Donglu (北四环东路), Chaoyang District.

**Open:** Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm; Saturday-Sunday, 9am-6:30pm.  
**Tel:** 84630222.

**Ligne Roset** (写意空间)  
**Add:** P, -1F, FullLink Plaza, 18 Chaowaidajie, Chaoyang District.

**Open:** 10am-8:30pm.  
**Tel:** 65885388.

**Jia Ju Lang G** (家居廊 G)  
**Add:** 1 Maizidian Beijie (麦子店北街), Chaoyang District.

**Open:** 9am-8pm.  
**Tel:** 65068395.

What's your favorite shop, stand, bar or restaurant? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902524 or 13910916642. Email: shopping@ynet.com.

Photo by Chen Shuyi



## Cleanest Coffee in Town

By Priscilla

Happy Time Café, a newly opened café at Dongzhimen, boasts that it is Beijing's only coffee shop that uses only purified water.

The window is painted with large colorful flowers and leaves. Inside, the dark brown décor creates a warm and comfortable ambience. The long room resembles an alley, with small stones inlaid in the floor. Windows down the floor are curtained on sunny days, and the paper lamps and wood shelves all come from Ikea.

According to the manager, Mr. Chen all the water used in the café, whether for drinks or for washing vegetables or rice, goes through a high-tech

American Kemflo water purification system. Various kinds of tea, including herbal and floral and fruit teas are available, as well as coffee, of course, freshly ground to order. In future, Chen says, the coffee beans will be roasted in the shop. They also offer ice coffee and chocolate, as well as special alcoholic chocolate and coffee beverages.

There are power plugs beside every table, so customers can plug in their notebook computers. The food served is all Chinese style, and the average price for a meal is 30-50 yuan per person.

**Add:** 1st floor, A2 Dongzhimenwai Nandajie, opposite north gate of East Gate Plaza, go through the small outdoor square, then north 150 meters.

**Open:** 9am-midnight.  
**Tel:** 64174751.

Photo by Chen Shuyi



## Yunnan Hotpot and Massage

By Lydia

On a recent shopping expedition, a friend and I were overcome by a sudden longing for hotpot (it can happen!). After a quick scan up and down the street, we headed into a spotless looking restaurant named Bai Shi Ji (百事吉). What followed was a delightful experience that went well beyond merely culinary satisfaction!

The lamb is sliced as thin as tissue paper, though still intact. It is wonderfully tender, while retaining a good, slightly chewy texture, and not at all greasy. One of the waitresses explained that the lamb comes from Inner Mongolia, reputed as the source of China's best mutton. Of the dipping sauces offered, I chose the sesame paste one, there was also a deep red, very spicy looking one and a special kind that contained various traditional Chinese medicinal ingredients, said to be beneficial to one's health. As well as the lamb, we ordered all sorts of other raw bits and pieces, including vegetables and



Photo by Chen Shuyi

some special Yunnan mushrooms.

The waitresses are all from the Aini ethnic minority of southwestern Yunnan Province, and wear traditional national dress. After a wonderful meal, much to our amazement, they provided a head, neck and shoulder massage service, at no extra cost! Aini women are said to customarily give their fathers or husbands a massage in this way when they return from working

## Marble Magic

By Lydia

There are a brother and sister at Panjiayuan Flea Market selling marble carving "paintings" that always attract much attention from passers by.

The brother and sister are from Hui'an, the "Kingdom of Sculpture" in southern Fujian Province, where a particular kind of soft black marble abounds. They create their unusual artworks by using an awl to make thousands of holes of varying size in the marble block. The finished works, called shadow sculptures, include portraits, animal designs and traditional Chinese and western style landscapes.

Her brother is a professional artist and has lived for some time in Beijing. When his sister followed him here a few months ago, the two chose Panjiayuan as the place to present their works to the world. "Our family has a strong artistic tradition, and my sister has studied oil painting and sketching. Her sculptures draw on both western and Chinese carving skills." Indeed, the shadow sculptures can be said to paint with white on a black "canvas", a reversal of the usual way. They can also create colored sculptures, by filling the holes with colored sand or powder.



Lin Meiling

Panjiayuan

潘

Flea Market

Nowadays, the brother and sister's shadow sculptures are widely sought after. "We sell our works here for around 500-1,000 yuan, according to the size of the marble block. You can also leave a photo and come back a week later for your portrait carving," say the two.

**Add:** 18, row 24, area A, Panjiayuan Flea Market.

**Open:** Sat & Sun, 7am-4pm. Mon-Fri, area A, 4th floor Xindong'an Market, Wangfujing.

**Tel:** 85814930 contact Ms Lin Meiling.

### Best Bites

in the fields. Although such service is not uncommon in restaurants in Yunnan, Bai Shi Ji is the only hotpot restaurant we know of in Beijing that does so!

**Branches:**

Zhongzhoulu, 150 meters north of China Science and Technology Museum, bus 380, 406 to Anzhenli. **Tel** 62370605  
Chaoyangmenwai branch, 100 meters north of Ziguang cinema, bus 101, 112 to Chaoyangmenwai. **Tel** 65514119

Huayuanqiao branch, 15 meters northwest of Huayuanqiao, bus 300, 323 to Huayuanqiao. **Tel** 68412335

**Other hotpot recommendations:**

Dong Lai Shun (东来顺), Mongolian hotpot restaurant is a popular chain, 5th floor of New Dong'an Market, Wangfujing Street. **Tel:** 65280932

Jin Shan Cheng (金山城), typical Sichuan Hotpot with a broth of deepest red. Better have a cold beer on hand when you try this one! Many branches all over the city; Huijialou branch, near Jiangguang Center. **Tel:** 65044626

## Business Service 商务服务

PRE-MEDIA

PRE-MEDIA

北京旁美广告有限公司独家代理“商务服务”专版广告。我们的宗旨是为国内的商务服务及代理机构能够和外商公平、合理地开展合作，从中起到桥梁和纽带的作用。

BEIJING PRE-MEDIA Advertising Co., Ltd. is the exclusive advertising agency of the Business Service page of《Beijing Today》. We will play the bridge on the cooperation between bussiness service company of our country and foreign business.

### AD PLACE (广告内容)

◆涉外代理工商注册、税务服务、商标、专利等代理注册事宜  
Business surrogate relate to foreigner, enterprise registration, tax service, trademark, patent and copyright registration, etc.

◆商务培训、合作  
Business training and cooperation

◆国际交通运输  
International transport

◆技术、文化交流  
Technique and culture communication

◆国际招商、投资、融资  
International investigation and financing

◆商务咨询、顾问、公关、代理  
commercial consultation, public relationship and surrogate

◆商务办公会议、商务旅游  
Business meeting, office and business tour

◆商务办公设备  
Office equipment

广告刊登电话 AD.PLACE.TEL: (86) 010-88552079/80 13601226884

AD.E-mail: premedia@263.net

### BUSINESS AGENT



北京市商标事务所  
BEIJING TRADEMARK AGENCY

TEL: 68083066 68081369  
FAX: 68081370  
地址: 北京市西城区月坛北街2号  
月坛大厦6层  
16th Floor Yue tan Tower  
No.2 Yue Tan North Street  
Xicheng District Beijing

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

## A Five-year-old Advertising company

Possess of certain marketing resource, plan to invest exhibition, design & produce. Now looking for foreign capital to joint venture and cooperation.

### Aim

- ◆Introducing advantage experiences and technologies from design and produce of overseas exhibitions.
- ◆Introducing trademark, administration and marketing promotion from overseas exhibitions vocation.
- ◆Introducing certain quantity capital to enlarge scale.

Welcome to connect to us.

Tel: 13701378266

## Huiyuan Apartments

ready to rent

With high, medium and economy standard.

Broadband multi-media e-commerce net service in each flat.

Welcome your visit.

Tel: 64923528/64923529  
64992660/64910545



CONSULTING  
Let us help you to extend your visa or change visa status  
Tel: 65674187  
Mobile: 13001039008 13910101133  
(San Ze synthesize Trading)  
三泽综合商社

## 北京工商事务咨询服务中心

BEIJING CONSULTING SERVICE CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

业务范围: 承办国内外企业登记注册代理业务、外国企业常驻代表机构审批、登记注册的代理业务。

The center handles applications for enterprise and foreign enterprise permanent office in Beijing registration.

地址: 北京市海淀区三里河1号西苑饭店7号楼107-109室  
RM107-109, NO.7, XIYUAN HOTEL, NO.1 SANLIHELU, HAI DIAN, BEIJING.  
电话: 68313388 转 57107-57109 88371521 传真: 68342761 联系人: 周研、孙霞、任民



BeiJing PRE-MEDIA Advertising Company

A well-known professioned company  
We provide following services:

- ★Market strategy, promotion and design, Boutique agency
- ★Advertisement Management of plane Media, TV advertisement
- ★Buying Representative

Quality service obtain honour welcome to consultation

TEL: 88552081

FAX: 88552079

MOBILE: 13601226884

E-mail: pieere@sina.com

## Konica 高品质 数字化复印机 Konica 7045



主要性能:  
\*复印/打印速度: 45 张/分  
\*600×600dpi 输入和输出  
\*图形用户界面  
\*首张复印输出时间: 3.9 秒  
\*预热时间: 少于 90 秒  
\*32MB 标准存储器 E-RDH

### KEY FEATURES:

- > 45 cpm/ppm
- > 600×600 dpi for Input & Output
- > Graphic User Interface
- > FCOT: 3.9 Seconds
- > WUT: Less than 90 Seconds
- > 32MB Standard Memory E-RDH

BEIJING ZHONGQING KONICA PRODUCTS AGENT CO., LTD

Tel: 63465432 63464797 MP: 13901151799 维修热线: 63448206 Post: 100054  
Add: Room 3A407, Pengrun Jiayuan (鹏润家园) Caohuying Cloverleaf Junction, Fengtai District, Beijing, China



# Foreign enterprises purchasing apartments

By Wang Dandan

It has long been common practice for foreign owned enterprises in Beijing to rent apartments for their employees. However in the wake of the recent housing reforms, some enterprises have started buying apartments, which they then rent or sell to their employees.

Generally, such companies do so to provide accommodation for foreign employees and the senior management team, or to sell to employees at a low price. According to the Beijing Real Estate Exchange, some companies purchase a house or apartment, then transfer ownership to their local employees.

There are several reasons for foreign companies to buy apartments, rather than rent them.

The main one is that China's market is developing rapidly and the investment environment is favorable, so many foreign companies have permanent investments and offices here.

Particularly in light of China's accession to the World Trade Organization, many companies expect to increase their investment in China. Motorola has recently announced it will build a research and development center in Beijing, and within the next five years, it will purchase parts worth 10 billion US dollars from China. A key factor in such an investment increase is providing accommodation for its employees.

By purchasing apartments, rather than renting them, the company is actually investing, rather than simply outlaying money. Usually a foreign company would pay US\$2,000 to 3,000 per month rent for one



employee. In five years, this would add up to \$120,000 to 180,000, enough to buy a 100 square meter apartment in the CBD area.

Such a strategy also makes the company more competitive. The majority of foreign companies here are engaged in the IT indus-

try, which means there is strong competition in attracting talent. By solving the accommodation problem, they become more attractive as an employer. If the company closes its Beijing operation, it can sell the house at an even higher price.

## Higher expense due to changed heating system

By Wang Dandan

If all developers always maintained the highest professional standards, then finding and buying a new house or apartment would be a much simpler and less risky business than it usually is (and there would perhaps be no need for this column!). However all too often, compromises are made on quality, corners are cut; so you have to be very careful when inspecting your potential future home.

As most houses and apartments on the market at present are pre-sold, it is only when you actually come to move in that you can know whether it is up to standard or not. From this edition, Beijing Today will introduce some of the problems you might encounter in your new house and advise you on how to deal with them.

Electrical heating are substituted for water heating.

A developer has promised that the project will use a water heating system, but later changes to an electrical heating sys-

tem, without prior notice to the purchasers.

Consequently, purchasers will have to pay over 6,000 yuan per year for the heating of a 140 square meter apartment, compared to the 3,000 yuan it would have cost with a water heating system.

According to the developers, the electrical heating system is more advanced than the traditional water heating system. Cer-

tainly purchasers will have no objection to the use of modern technology, however not at double expense. Furthermore, the electrical system employed does not warm the room as efficiently as water heating does.

This is another example of the importance of ensuring every detail is covered by the contract you sign with the developers. And you have to check out any 'new tech-

nology' the developers adopt. Find out how efficiently the temperature will be maintained with the new technology and its cost. If you are not satisfied with the answers you get, look elsewhere, or negotiate further with developers.

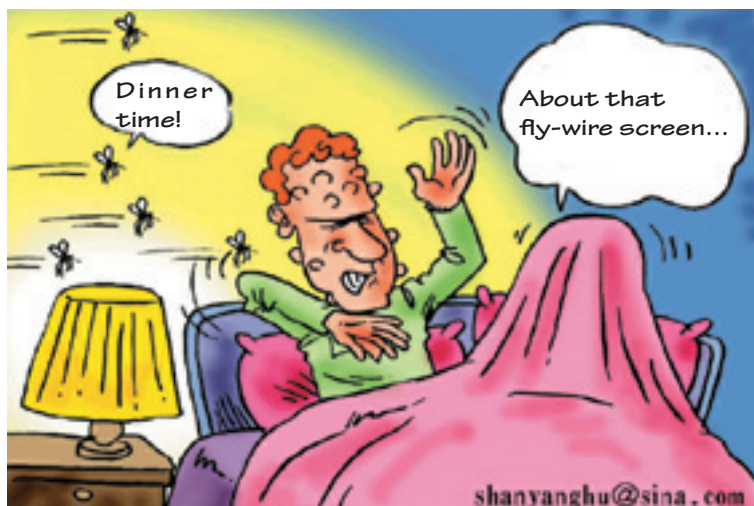
There are also something wrong with windows.

Some developers install double-glazed windows. These can become fogged up during winter time, and are difficult to clean. Also, there is often no fly-wire screen with such windows, and even no place to fit them.

Double-layered vacuum windows can eliminate this problem, with only a little increase in the cost.

Most project brochures detail the materials to be used. Again, find out the details about the materials the developers will adopt for the windows and if they will fog up during winter.

For the fly-wire screen, it may be a problem with the design. The designer neglected to allow for the screen and when developers checked the blueprint, they also failed to identify the problem.



By Wang Dandan / Yan Ming

By far the majority of apartments in Beijing's property market are pre-sold. In other words, they are offered for sale while still under construction, even prior to the commencement of construction.

The only way for potential buyers to "see" the apartment is by looking at plans or computer images of projects. This leads to the frequent problem where the finished product is inferior to that envisaged in the artist's rendering.

'Annie' bought such an apartment some time ago in a project in the west Third Ring Road. The computer image promised green grassy

areas, a top-level club, kindergarten and luxuriously appointed external and internal decorations. Annie has a five-year-old child, and it was the kindergarten that won her over.

Because of the extensive facilities, the price of apartments in this project was significantly higher than that of others in the same area. The developer made a verbal promise that all the facilities would be completed at the same time as the rest of the project.

A year past before Annie moved into the new apartment. To her dismay, the promised top-level decoration had fallen victim to cost cutting, with domestically produced materials substituted for imported ones, there were no grassed areas at all, and worst of all, no sign of the kindergarten!

Annie went to court to sue the developer, but was told that she could only recover around 20,000 yuan in compensation for that part of the contract that had been violated.

The kindergarten and grassy areas were not actually mentioned in the contract, so the developer was not obliged to compensate Annie for failing to provide them.

Xu Chendi, a lawyer with Beijing Zhongsheng Law Firm, suggests that an additional contract should be signed when buying the house. All those extras, such as grassy areas, kindergarten and clubs should be covered in this contract, and ideally any computer image offered by the developer at the time of the sale should be attached as evidence.

## Computer image ≠ real house



Legal Aid



**Target: Holiday Inn Lido**  
**When: 8:30-9:30, Tuesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan**

### Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The price is not that expensive compared with other hotels of the same level, and it includes breakfast. Usually at other hotels, no meals are included in the charge. I am a businessman and I want to keep my wallet full. Also it is very close to the airport, so I do not have to spend much time and money on traveling!

### Felix Waeckers, Germany

Location is the most important factor for me to stay here. I am very critical about everything and want to get them settled at the precise time. And the traffic jam in Beijing can stop me doing anything at the right moment! That's really terrible! I think most of the guests living here have exactly the same reason as mine.

### Vojo Deretic, Mexico

I am here for business, not only in Beijing, but in Shanghai,



Qingdao and Hangzhou as well. Here is my temporary headquarters. I do not have much to do in this city. I like this location. It's perfect! There are such hotels located in the vicinity of the airport and they are my favorite.

## Tax cut on large apartments

By Wang Dandan

When purchasing an apartment, a tax of 2% of the total price is payable on those under 120 square meters. Until recently, apartments larger than 120 square meters attracted a tax of 4% of the total price, however according to a new policy released by the Beijing Finance Bureau and Beijing Tax Bureau, this tax has been reduced. As of November 10, the 4% tax only applies to the area in excess of 120 square meters, while the remainder attracts a tax of 2%.

Take a 140 square meter apartment, with a price of 2,650 yuan per square meter, or 371,000 yuan in total, for example. According to the previous policy, the tax would have been calculated as follows:  $140 \times 2,650 \text{ yuan} \times 4\% = 14,840 \text{ yuan}$ . Under the new policy, the tax should be:  $(120 \times 2,650 \text{ yuan} \times 4\%) + [(140 - 120) \times 2,650 \text{ yuan} \times 2\%] = 8,480 \text{ yuan}$ , a reduction of 6,360 yuan.

The reduction is expected to have a significant effect on the construction of apartments in Beijing, as in the past, most apartments were built within 120 square meters in order to limit the sales tax to 2%.



Pictures by Xie Feng

## Office prices

### China Life Tower:

**Rent:** US\$45/month/sqm+

**Location:** Chaoyangmenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District.

### China Resources Building:

**Rent:** US\$36.8-38.8/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Jianguomen North Avenue, Dongcheng District.

### CITIC Building:

**Rent:** US\$36/month/sqm+

**Location:** Jianguomenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District. Located in east part of Chang'an Avenue, with International Club on its west across the street, and the Embassy District on its south.

### COFCO Plaza:

**Rent:** US\$42/month/sqm+

**Location:** Jianguomennei Avenue, Dongcheng District.

### Continental Building:

**Rent:** US\$19/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Gulouwai Street, Dongcheng District. Located between North Second Ring Road and North Third Ring Road.

### First Shanghai Center:

**Rent:** US\$26/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District.

### Grand Place:

**Rent:** US\$26.5/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Anli Road, Chaoyang District. In Asian Game Village.

### Hyundai Millennium Tower:

**Rent:** US\$28/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District. Being close to the Lufthansa Center and Landmark towers.

### Jing An Center:

**Rent:** US\$23-26/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Zuoqiazhuang, Chaoyang District. It is close to Beijing International Exhibition Center, Royal Hotel and Carrefour Supermarket.

### Lufthansa Center:

**Rent:** US\$52/month/sqm+

**Location:** Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District.

### Pacific Century Place:

**Rent:** US\$35/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Gongtibe Road, Chaoyang District.

### Silver Tower:

**Rent:** US\$35/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Northeast Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District.

### The Exchange Beijing:

**Rent:** US\$29.5/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Dongsanhuannan Road, Chaoyang District. Located at the intersection of Jianguomenwai Avenue and East Third Ring Road Expressway.

### Towercrest Plaza:

**Rent:** US\$20-22/month/sqm\*

**Location:** Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District.

+ Usable area  
\* Total construction area

The above information is weekly updated and for reference only  
DTZ Debenham Tie Leung provides the above information. For further information, please go to  
[www.dtz.com](http://www.dtz.com)  
[www.dtz.bj.cn](http://www.dtz.bj.cn)  
Email: [residential@dtz.bj.cn](mailto:residential@dtz.bj.cn)



Homehelp

Sony Home Appliance Maintenance Center  
Tel: 68422538  
Panasonic Home Appliance Maintenance Center  
Tel: 67051760  
Toshiba Home Appliance Maintenance Center  
Tel: 84650947  
Sanyo Home Appliance Maintenance Center

Tel: 68454102  
Philips Home Appliance Maintenance Center  
Tel: 64073336

**"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback:** What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with? Our E-mail: [housing@ynet.com](mailto:housing@ynet.com)  
Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525



## Music

## Gateway to Music 2001 Series - Percussion

Let Phon Percussion Group. **When:** Nov. 24, 2pm. **Admission:** 10-30 yuan. Yu-ying Beimian Chorus **When:** Nov 25, 2pm. **Admission:** 30-180 yuan. Traditional Chinese Music China Radio Traditional Music Ensemble. Leader: Zhang Gaoxiang. **When:** Nov 30, 7:30pm.

**Admission:** 30-180 yuan. **Where:** All the above are at the Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhuajie, Liubukou, West Chang'an Avenue, Xicheng District. **Tel:** 66057006.

**World Movie Soundtrack Concert** China Song & Dance Troupe Symphony Orchestra. **When:** Nov. 24, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-200 yuan. **Chinese Folk Songs** Pagoda Chorus, conductor: Guan Xu. **When:** Nov. 25, 2pm. **Admission:** 10-30 yuan. **Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall. **Tel:** 65598285.

**Selections from Puccini's La Boheme** Han Jing, Xu Jing. Music director: Nick Smith. Director: Marina Hristic. **Where:** Art Salon, Crown Plaza Hotel (皇冠假日饭店), 48 Wangfujing Dajie, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 24, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 65322187.

**Same Song** Popular Chinese and foreign folk songs performed by band Four Brothers, with special guest appearances by Huang Huali, Yu Qinghai, Liu Bingyi, Geng Lianfeng and others. **Where:** Beijing Concert Hall. **When:** Nov. 23, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 66057006.



**Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra** This 100-year-old orchestra has given annual composer festivals since 1986. This year, the focus is on Scandinavians. Conductor: Alan Gilbert. **Where:** Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 25, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 100-600 yuan, 800 yuan VIP. **Tel:** 64660032.

## Weather

Friday  
November 23

Clear to cloudy  
Max: 11C. Min: -2C.

Saturday  
November 24

Overcast to sleet  
Max: 8C. Min: 2C.

Sunday  
November 25

Clear, high winds  
Max: 4C. Min: -3C.

Monday  
November 26

Clear  
Max: 6C. Min: -6C.

Tuesday  
November 27

Clear  
Max: 7C. Min: -5C.

Wednesday  
November 28

Clear  
Max: 7C. Min: -4C.

Thursday  
November 29

Clear to cloudy  
Max: 7C. Min: -3C.



We are glad to receive your feedback. If you need any help in your life, you can email us at [bjtodayinfo@ynet.com](mailto:bjtodayinfo@ynet.com) or call 65902522  
By Priscilla / Lydia / Hydie

## Performance



Tea House

Lao She's classic set to music and performed by the Beijing Quju Opera. **Where:** Children's Theater (中国儿童剧院), **When:** Nov. 23-25, 7:15pm. **Admission:** 40-80 yuan. **Tel:** 65121425.



**Cross-century Cross Talk - Millennium Teahouse** Directed by Lai Shengchuan, the play tells the story of "cross talk", a traditional form of comic dialogue, between two performers, over the last 100 years. **Where:** Chang'an Grand

Theater (长安大剧院), Chang'an Avenue. **When:** till Nov. 25, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 90-280 yuan, 50 students, 800 yuan box. **Tel:** 65101310.

**Russian Red-Army Dance Troupe** **Where:** Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District, bus 115 or subway to Dongsishitiao. **When:** Nov. 24-25, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 65001188-5682.



Porgy and Bess

The U.S. Porgy and Bess Troupe. Gershwin's classic musical love story about a kind-hearted beggar and a beautiful lady. The jazz style and lively performance offer a taste of Broadway in Beijing. **Where:** Great Hall of the People, west side of Tian'anmen Square. **When:** Dec. 2 and 3, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 180, 280, 380, 480, 580, 800 yuan. **Tel:** 65102173.

**Merry Widow** By the Vienna Operetta Group, which has given some 250,000 performances all over the world. This production features 2 acts, staged by nearly 60 artists, including major soloists from Vienna

Opera Houses. Elisabeth Flechl will act the role of Hanna. **Where:** Beijing 21st Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Dec. 3, 4, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 120-800 yuan. **Tel:** 64636572.



Romeo &amp; Juliet

By Ballet Deutsche Oper am Rhein. **Where:** Beijing Exhibition Center Theater (北展剧场), 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie. **When:** Dec. 1, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 120-580 yuan. **Tel:** 68354455.



## Sports &amp; Fitness

## Kang Man Fitness Club

Break dancing, yoga, bodybuilding, tai kwon do, taekwondo, and more. The coaches are all from National Leagues and manager Qi Wei is the national wushu champion. **Add:** east side of Beijing Junwang Fu (郡王府), 19 Chaoyang Park Nanlu, Chaoyang District, bus 302, 117, 705, 831, 731 to Chaoyang Park. **Open:** 10am-10pm. **Tel:** 65940432.



## Ice Hockey in Beijing

Beijing International Ice Hockey is really international. Among 50 players, 40% are Canadians, 10% American, 10% Russian, and the remainder made up of Swedes, Fins, Czechs, a Swiss, an Irish and a Greek. Weekly matches are played Sunday mornings between 10am-2pm, in the basement arena of Capital Gym (West of the Beijing Zoo). The Ulaan Baatar Cup 2001, Mongolia will be in December. They will organize one men's team and two or three youth teams who will depart for Mongolia on Dec. 15, fee: \$350 return flight plus \$50 per night accommodation. If interested, contact Ray

Plummer at [Peking\\_puck@yahoo.com](mailto:Peking_puck@yahoo.com)

## Climbing and Hiking

Training courses on a group or personal basis. Program includes swimming, camping, climbing. Time periods range from 1 to 3 days. Call for details. **Where:** 93 Dongsishitiao, Dongcheng District, Room 406, Building A, Beijing Youth Rock Group. **Tel:** 64063777.

## Battling Cages

Indoor mini-baseball, mini-soccer, mini-tennis, all 10 yuan/game, darts 20 yuan/game. **Where:** Xiedao Holiday Village, Jichangfulu (机场南路), Battling Center, better drive there or take a taxi. **When:** 9am-9pm. **Tel:** 84311919 ext. 3369.

## Activities

## Documenta XI

Ute Meta Bauer, the head of the Institute of Contemporary Art at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna will introduce the guiding principle and work methods of Documenta XI, and discuss contemporary art issues with Chinese curators and critics. **Where:** Goethe Institute, Beijing, west end of Weigongcunlu, Haidian District. **When:** Nov. 28, 6:30pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 68417891.



**Chinese Culture Club - Chinese music and Tang Dynasty poetry** Pipa (stringed instrument), Chinese flute and Xiao. Music-related poems will be recited in both English and Chinese. Texts in both English and Chinese provided. **Where:** Beijing Duiwai Youxie (Beijing Friendship Association with Foreign Countries), 97 Nanheyuan Dajie, one street west of Wangfujing Shopping Street. **When:** Nov. 25, Sunday, 2:30-5pm. **Fee:** 25 yuan, 10 yuan (students and kids). **Tel:** 8462-2081/1350-103-5145 (Feng Cheng).

## Super Football Fans?

Friday, 9:30 pm, Club Party! Cheap drinks 10 and DJ's. Sunday, 9:50 pm, English Premiership Liverpool vs Sunderland; Midnight, English Premiership Arsenal vs Manchester United. All live! **Where:** 10 Taipingzhuang, near Red House Hotel, Chunxiulu, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 64150988/64167786.

**Qian Xi Yuan Football Fans Restaurant** Menu offers dishes such as "Two Yellow

Cards", "Football Field" and "Take a Goal", while the dinning rooms are named after various European football clubs. The manager is a football fanatic and will happily enter a debate with you on anything related to football. **Where:** 15 Chunshuyuan Residential Area, Xuanwu District. **When:** 5pm-9:30pm. **Tel:** 63102999.

**Adria Gourmet & Wine Club** The club's first party, featuring band, free snacks, buffet and a lucky draw. **Where:** Adria IV-Torero, 4 Ritan Beilu, Chaoyang District, opposite Fangcaodi Elementary School. **When:** Nov. 23. **Tel:** 65950726.

## YPHH November

300 bottles of Tsingtao beer, and all mix drinks will be 15 yuan too. Pizza slices (10 yuan) and lasagna (15 yuan), lucky draw. DJ Damon will be spinning the records. **Where:** VIC's, inside north gate of Worker's Stadium, next to Outback Steakhouse. **When:** Nov. 28, 6:30pm. **Tel:** 65936215 or call Meng at 13901022644.

The YPHH Christmas Party advertised for Dec. 15 has been cancelled due to poor ticket sales. Those who have already purchased a ticket will be reimbursed, and YPHH apologizes for any inconvenience.

## Schools

## The Little Oak Children's House

Founded in March, 2001, the Little Oak aims to provide modern preschool education in a more relaxed environment than many Chinese preschools. Now, it has more than 10 children, including those of returned Chinese students, Koreans, and Americans. **Fee:** children aged 2-5 years, 50 yuan per hour. Full day tuition (7:30am-6:30pm): 3,000 yuan / month. **Add:** H-106, Huiyuan International Apartments (汇园国际公寓), Yayuncun, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 64991847 (Dr. Wang, weekdays between 11am-3pm). **Email:** [adm@oaky.com.cn](mailto:adm@oaky.com.cn)

## Bridge School

Providing classes, English corners, community events, audio-visual self-study. No more than 15 persons per class. Altogether 20 hours per week of English training, 12 hours per week spent with a teacher from a top US university. Tuition: 10,000 yuan for two years (8.01 yuan per hour with teacher), 6,000 yuan for one year (9.62 yuan per hour with teacher). On this Friday, the first free 2-hour sample lesson (and more over the next few days) will be provided. For more information, phone 88363974, or email [info@bridge-school.com](mailto:info@bridge-school.com)

## Movies



**Korean Movie - The Zoo beside the Museum.** Directed by Lee Jeong Hyang, starring Shen Yin He, Ahn Sung Gi. **Where:** 5F, Hyundai Millennium Tower (现代盛世大厦), 38 Xiaoyunlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 30 5:30pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 84538112-4

## Italian Movie

*Ieri, Oggi, Domani* (Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow), *La Ciociara* (Two Women) Directed by Vittorio De Sica. **Where:** Space for Imagination Coffee Shop, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu, Haidian District. **When:** Nov. 24, 7pm. **Tel:** 62791280.

## French Films

Altogether 6 French movies will be screened, the first in the series is *Les Rivières Pourpres* (An Liu, or The Crimson Rivers). Organized by China Film Group. **Where:** cinemas around Beijing. **When:** from Nov. 23. **Tel:** 62254488.



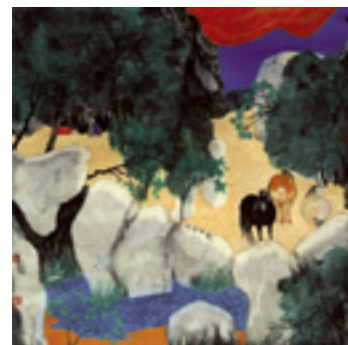
## Exhibitions



**Folk Customs - Works by Wang Luxia** Graduated in 1979 from the Art Department of the Henan Teachers Institute, Wang studied under Wu Zuoren, Li Kuchan and Zhou Sicong. She has developed her own style, combining traditional Chinese painting and folk art. Her works have been exhibited in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, U.S., Canada and France and collected around the world. **Where:** Qin Gallery (秦昊画廊), 38A, Fangcaodi Beijie, Chaoyang District. **When:** till Nov. 28, 10am-7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65074062.

## Colorful Ink Paintings by Che Chenglin

**Where:** Yan Huang Art Museum (炎黄艺术馆), 9 Huizhonglu, Yayuncun, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 24-29, 9am-4pm. **Admission:** 5 yuan. **Tel:** 64912902.



**Ink & Water Joint Exhibition** Featuring works by Han Shuli, Xiao Shunzhi and Du Jie. Opening reception: Nov. 24, 3-7pm. **Where:** Creation Gallery, north end of Ritan Beilu, Chaoyang District. **When:**

Nov. 24-Dec. 2, 10am-7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65067570.

**Six Female Painters Joint Exhibition** Featuring works by Xu Haixiang, Yali, Rao Xiaoyi and others. **Where:** International Art Palace, 48 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** Nov. 23-27, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65133388-1207/8.

## 2001 China International Tableware and Sanitary Equipment Fair

**Where:** Agricultural Exhibition Center, Dongsanhuanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 24-27. **Tel:** 65018877.

## 2001 Wine Fair

Featuring Louis Jadot Macon Blanc Village, 125 yuan; Stone Cellars Merlot 99, 95 yuan; Loulan Dry Red Wine, 54 yuan; Bordeaux Red, 49.9 yuan; and other French, Italian, Argentinian, South African and Spanish Wines. Limited quantities, so be quick! **Where:** Carrefour Beijing Chuangyijia Store (创益佳), 6B, Beisanhuan Donglu, Chaoyang District. **When:** till Dec. 25, 8:30am-9:30pm. **Tel:** 84601030.

## Euro Exhibition

The first time Euro exhibited outside Europe. The real Euro, both paper and coins and pictures. Also books, videos and computer games on the new currency and a poster gallery. Two English speakers provide explanation during the exhibition. Organized by the EU Commission in China, China People's Bank and the Frankfurt Book Fair. **Where:** China Numismatic Museum (中国钱币博物馆), 22 Xijiaominxiang, southwest side of Tian'anmen Square. **When:** till Nov. 27, 9am-4pm. **Tel:** 66053037.



## Food

## ABC Restaurant &amp; Bar

Cocktails are a specialty. If you finish (without help) the ABC Hero Noodles, all your food and drink will be discounted by 50%. Wanna have a try? **Where:** 5F, 27 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, above Pizza Hut, Chaoyang Street. **When:** 11am-2am midnight. **Tel:** 64682990.

## Weekend Dim Sum Extravaganza

Indulge yourself in a dim sum buffet. Free flow of soft drinks and domestic beer. Have yourself a feast! **When:** Every Saturday and Sunday, From 11:30am to 2:30pm. 118 yuan for adults, kids under 12 free. **Where:** Cantonese Restaurant, Shang Palace, Beijing Shangri-La Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuan Road. **Tel:** 68412211.

## Autumn Special

Autumn specialties from the Shang Palace will fortify you for the coming winter months. Come and enjoy. **When:** Nov 6-Dec 30. **Where:** Beijing Shangri-La Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuanlu. **Tel:** 68412211.



By Yang Bo

If you don't like the idea of living on yak butter tea and tsampa (roasted barley flour), going for several days without a shower, no phones and no electricity; if you suffer from fear of heights, wild animals, flies, fleas, or walking across rickety one-plank bridges; if you are disconcerted by the idea of a wilderness without flushing toilets (or simply without toilets), this trek might not be for you.

However for those who love the outdoor life, can stand a little hardship, and crave a bit of adventure; the extraordinary scenery you will encounter, the friendly welcome you'll receive in those remote minority villages, and the sense of satisfaction derived from simply doing it, will make this trek well worthwhile.

Short stay in Kangding

We got off the train at Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, and headed for the town of Kangding (康定) without delay, in order to get started on our hiking adventure.

Kangding is a town mentioned in numerous love songs. The small city, however, doesn't exactly exude an air of romance. Surrounded by high mountains, the famous Paomashan (Horse Racing Mountain) doesn't even provide a flat for horse riding. How can lovers ride horses here? The big river, Zheduohe (折多河), keeps the residents awake at night with its ceaseless roaring. However, compared with the bus trip we endured the following two days, Kangding was, in retrospect at least, quite a paradise.

The bus made very heavy work of the rugged mountain road, which made its way between 3,000 and 4,000 meters above sea level. The mountains emerged one after another from the clouds and fog like genies. After an interminable, bone-jarring journey, we arrived in Daocheng. A big problem for tourists arriving in Daocheng is the lack of accommodation, and when the few small hotels are full, visitors have no choice but to stay with local families.

After a night in Daocheng, an even more arduous bus trip lay ahead, before reaching Longlongba (Dragon Dam) at Yading (亚丁) Scenic Spot, the beginning of the hiking adventure.

Lugu Lake is five days' hard trek beyond Longlongba. **Old Temple and Hell Valley**

A visit to the old temple Chonggusi (冲古寺), not far from Longlongba, is said to be a must, however when we arrived, it seemed as though it had just suffered from an earthquake. No walls were left standing, and all the lamas had moved into tents pitched nearby.

Hell Valley (卡斯地狱谷) is not far from the old temple, however, you have to cross a high pass between two snowy mountains, Xiannairi (仙乃日) and Yangmaiyoung (央迈勇) to get there. Everyone in our party suffered from altitude sickness during this part of the trek.

At Niunaihai (Milk Sea), we encountered a severe storm. Wind and snow struck us head on. The pass covers quite a large area, with Yangmaiyoung mountain on the left and Xiannairi on the right. In the middle, prayer flags strung up by Tibetan Buddhists flutter in the strong wind, making a musical, humming sound. At 4,681 meters above sea level, the air is very rarefied and this is not a good place to linger, so we continued down the other side quickly and continue hiking north-west.

If you are lucky, you will find a Kasi cattle hut before dark. The cattle huts are simple structures, made from piles of flat stones. However they provide some shelter, and we were fortunate enough to find one stocked with firewood.

On the trail from this Kasi cattle hut to the next one, there is much marvelous sightseeing. If it has just rained, you will see the clouds and fog marching across the mountains, and bright sunshine at the same time. And if it is cloudy in the late afternoon, you will be sure to witness a spectacular sunset. Occasionally, you may encounter some of the wild yaks that are said to inhabit the sacred Xiannairi Mountain. According to the natives, the three sacred mountains here have their respective wild yaks, and the yaks, as the representatives of the mountains, are regarded accordingly as sacred animals. After the last stretch, you will come to the end of Hell Valley, which is something of a misnomer; Paradise Valley would be more appropriate, because of the many beautiful scenic spots you pass along the way.

Hell Valley is a main branch of the Dongyi (东义) River, which tumbles violently down the valley. Walking down the valley, one encounters a constant succession of roaring and twisting rapids and small waterfalls with the abrupt descent over a short distance.

Oriental white oaks, dragon spruces, Chinese larches and firs occupy the valley. Strips of cloud thread their way through the forest, truly a scene from paradise. Lying here on a carpet of leaves and grass, the problems and pressures of city life will seem impossibly far away.

Matriarchal village and thermal springs

A little further on, you will arrive at Eyada (俄牙大) Village, whose inhabitants enjoy a rare freedom in terms of their sexual activities. People there have kept the old tradition of brothers having one wife or sisters having one husband. What's more, men and women in the village are free to have sex with anyone freely, without interference from parents or any other relatives. The only rule is that no one, male or female, is permitted to marry an outsider.

There are thermal springs in the village of Eyada, in which you can soak yourself for hours, late into the night if you choose, an excellent therapy for muscles stiff from days of hiking.

You can see Lion Mountain in the distance, behind which is the destination, Lugu Lake. Although not yet in sight, the lake seems



Dongyi River with another big mountain ahead



The map in which I found the little known hiking route between Daocheng and Lugu Lake, as well as some useful survival notes!



Dawn at Lugu Lake

Photos by Yang Bo

# Hiking to Paradise

Daocheng (稻城) and Lugu Lake (泸沽湖) are often described as the last Shangri-las. Remote and mysterious Lugu Lake in Yunnan Province is renowned for its dramatically beautiful scenery, as well as the distinctive culture and religion of the local Naxi people. The trek between Daocheng in the south of Sichuan Province and Lugu Lake is about as far off the beaten track as it is possible to get in China; a physically challenging and exhilarating hike is definitely not for the faint-hearted or ill-prepared.

to exert a presence here, as if one could reach out and touch it.

On leaving Eyada, our pace seemed to increase, although there was still a long distance to cover. We stopped next at Yongning (永宁) Village, which also boasts some wonderful thermal springs. This is a place where you can enjoy a wonderful meal and then throw yourself into the tub at the springs. Have a sound sleep in this village, because Lugu Lake is within your reach now.

Leisurely Getaway to Paradise

Lugu Lake lies just across the border in Yunnan Province, and has an area of some seventy square kilometers. Shaped like the hoof of an ox, the water is shallow near the banks, and various water plants flourish here. Wild reeds sway with the wind, which lends the lake another name, Caohai (Grass Sea). Beautiful mountains surround the

lake, which isolates the climate from that of outside. For this reason, it is warm and humid here, despite its geographical location in the highlands. Many rare birds thrive in the moderate climate, and white egrets, gray egrets, ducks and swans spend a leisurely winter holiday here. Sometimes a flock of birds blocks the lake from the light of the sun.

Grass Sea Bridge and Zhucaochuan (trough boat) here feature in many photographers' albums. The light and maneuverable boats provide access to most corners of the lake, and the locals have carved many ways through the wild reeds with knives and axes.

The inhabitants around the lake are mostly of the Mosuo nationality, however villagers of Dazuicun (Big Mouth Village) belong to the Naxi, so the village is alternatively called Naxicun (Naxi Village). Ancestors of the Naxi villagers moved here some one thousand years ago from Lijiang, 250 kilometers to the southwest. Long isolation has allowed the villagers to retain customs that are markedly different from both those of the people of the surrounding villages and of their ancestors.

Most of the Naxi villagers practice their own religion, known as Dongba (东巴), while others practice a form of Tibetan Buddhism. On festival days, the Dongba followers gather in a temple on the small hill at the rear of the village and chant prayers. Meanwhile the Buddhists chant prayers in a white Tibetan style pagoda on the small island in Lugu Lake on the first and fifteenth day of every month. Horse Racing Day, however, is a festival for all the people in the village. The festival is held on January 9 every year.

For backpackers, the two nearby caves hold a strong attraction. One is at the foot of Lion Mountain. A phallic shaped stone pole stands at the entrance to the cave, in front of which the local guides must offer a sacrifice to heaven before entering the cave.

The cave is actually composed of many small caves, linked by many narrow passages, and if you don't mark your trail well, you are likely to spend a lot of time walking (or crawling) around in circles.

The other cave is known as Bat Cave by the locals. Giant bats can be seen flying in and out throughout the day. The extremely humid air inside makes breathing an arduous task. This is an eroded-cave in its infancy; drops of water fall continuously from stalactites hanging from the roof, and the sound is amplified by the natural acoustics of the cave. Huge rocks and deep fissures make this adventure even more exciting.

**Tips:** Many trains and flights from Beijing will stop at Chengdu. Chengdu is 800 kilometers from Daocheng, the bus trip takes 12 hours, costs 200 yuan. The bus stops at Kangding en route. Daocheng is 110 kilometers from Yading, the bus fee is about 110 yuan; you can alternatively hire a horse, 80 yuan per day.